

**Oops! Wrong syphilis meds in LA!**  
*SF health officials say they have safeguards in place to prevent similar error here.*

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**Spring is here!**  
*Gay gardeners a highlight at SF Flower & Garden Show.*

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**Going screwball**  
*Erotic comedy 'Eating Out' plays the Castro.*  
 see Arts section



# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 35 • No. 11 • 17 March 2005

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## Judge rules gay couples can wed

by Matthew S. Bajko

**S**ame-sex couples in California heard wedding bells this week after a San Francisco judge ruled that the state's laws restricting marriage to a union between a man and a woman are unconstitutional.

Shortly after noon Monday, March 14, San Francisco Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer issued his ruling in six consolidated cases dealing with the state's marriage codes. In it, Kramer wrote that "it appears that no rational purpose exists for limiting marriage in this state to opposite-sex partners."

Evoking the state Supreme Court's ruling in 1948 that overturned California's ban on interracial marriages and the U.S. Supreme Court's 2003 decision to overturn the country's sodomy laws, Kramer found that California cannot argue that due to the traditional limitation of marriage to a union between a man and a woman that the state's current laws are justified.

"Simply put, same-sex marriage cannot be prohibited solely because California has always done so before," wrote the judge. "Thus, the denial of

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### Scenes from a happy day, Monday, March 14:

At top, nearly 200 enthusiastic marchers celebrating the favorable court decision make their way to City Hall, as marriage equality maven Molly McKay (in her trademark wedding dress) leads the cheers. At the City Hall rally, lead plaintiffs Lancy Woo, left, and Cristy Chung (with daughter Olivia Chung-Woo holding onto Chung) address supporters.



## Ruling fuels gay marriage debate in Sacramento

by Matthew S. Bajko

**S**an Francisco Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer's ruling that the state's marriage laws are unconstitutional is already reverberating throughout Sacramento, where state lawmakers could make history this year by passing progay marriage legislation.

For the second consecutive year, Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) has introduced a bill that would extend marriage to same-sex couples. Dubbed the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act, Leno has lined up substantial support from Democratic leaders in both the Assembly and Senate. If the Legislature does indeed pass the bill, it would be the first time a state legislative body enacted progay marriage legislation.

"Our justices said marriage is more than a moral contract, it is a fundamental right of all citizens," said Leno during a breakfast meeting of Out and Equal Workplace Advocates Friday, March 11. He was referring to the state Supreme Court's 1948 decision to end the ban on interracial marriages.

After Kramer issued his ruling, Leno said he was hopeful that the court decision will add momentum to his effort to see that state lawmakers pass his bill this year.

"It is my hope that the state Legislature and the governor will recognize what courts in California and across the country already have—that there is no rational basis for treating law abiding, taxpaying Americans who live, work, and raise families just like everyone else as second class citizens," he said in a statement.

His opponents hope for the opposite, that the ruling will

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# New director at Our Family Coalition

by Kevin Davis

**O**ur Family Coalition, the community-building, advocacy, social, and support organization for LGBT families, has hired Judy Appel as its new executive director, the agency announced last week.

Appel replaces Rocky Morrison, who left the director's post last September to become finance director of the Service Employees International Union. An interim director, OFC treasurer Phillip Parkerson, led the group for four months prior to Appel's hiring.

As part of an ambitious strategic planning process, OFC expects last year's \$250,000 annual budget to grow through soliciting community input, conducting a membership drive, program development, and expanded political policy efforts. Appel declined to disclose her salary. Morrison's annual salary, according to a December 2002 *Bay Area Reporter* article announcing his hiring, was \$50,000.

"Let us know what you want to see," said Appel, a former director of legal affairs for the Drug Policy Alliance. "It's the start of a new era. We anticipate a lot of growth."

She hopes for OFC's roughly 500 members, who pay \$35 annually, to play a bigger role in LGBT family rights by working with Equality California and Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco).



Our Family's Judy Appel

co), perhaps asking children to testify in Sacramento during hearings on LGBT legislation, write letters, or play a more reactive role.

"When something happens, say the Department of Education or the president speaks out against our families, we could appeal to the public," said Appel, who earned a law degree at Hastings College of the Law and has a master's degree in city planning.

"Judy has a respected track record in working for human rights and leveraging the law to effect social change," said board chair Linda Jacobson.

OFC works on the local level. Presently, Washington, D.C.-based

Family Pride and one Midwest group are the only ones of their kind doing national work. But the American Civil Liberties Union's LGBT division, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, and the National Center for Lesbian Rights, (a few flights away from OFC's office at 870 Market Street), argue for many LGBT family rights cases in the courts.

"At this moment in civil rights history the voices of families are often absent, almost invisible, really," said Appel. "It's mostly about couples. I think our next step is to really talk about families who are also involved in this struggle, and show that our kids are a bridge."

OFC hosts holiday parties and picnics, serves as fiscal sponsor of the Mammals and Pappas discussion group, and collaborates on events and panels with Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere, a San Francisco-based national group aimed at children aged 9 to 17.

"It's helpful to see well-adjusted, older kids," Appel said of CO-LAGE members. Children of same-gender parents serve to bridge generations, she pointed out. Parents who once rejected their LGBT children have greater acceptance once they become grandparents.

"Kids help increase our visibility and our voice," said Appel.

OFC also belongs to the Early

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# Phil Angelides kicks off bid for governor

by Matthew S. Bajko

**S**tate Treasurer Phil Angelides kicked off his gubernatorial campaign early Tuesday morning in San Francisco, nearly 15 months before the Democratic Party holds its primary in June 2006.

Speaking before a crowd of about 100 supporters at Spring Valley Science Magnet School — his father's alma mater and the oldest public school in California — Angelides became the first Democrat to officially toss his name into the race.

"Governor Schwarzenegger said in his inaugural address that he wouldn't rest till our fiscal house was in order, till the people of California saw their government as a partner. Well I think it is time to give the governor some rest," declared Angelides, who called himself the anti-Arnold.



Phil Angelides greets a supporter following his announcement for California governor as former Supervisor Leslie Katz looks on.

"The California dream is in danger. ... We're going to take back this great state; we're going to put it to work for working Californians; we're going to build a better future for our children."

Also expected to make a run for the Democratic nomination are Attorney General Bill Lockyer, who so far has unsuccessfully sought to keep California's ban on

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# Benefit for 'Sporting Life' exhibit

by Cynthia Laird

The GLBT Historical Society will host a beer benefit for its upcoming exhibit celebrating gay athletes Saturday, March 19 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Pilsner Inn, 225 Church Street at Market in San Francisco.

"Sporting Life: GLBT Athletes and Cultural Change from the 1960s to Today" opens April 2. The exhibit explores how Bay Area LGBT athletes have challenged homophobia and created community. Events such as gay softball games against squads from the police department that started in the early 1970s will be featured, along with the history of the Gay Games. Today, more than 4,000 LGBT Bay Area athletes participate annually in an array of sporting events. The new exhibit is being guest-curated by Bay Area Reporter sports columnist and author Jim Provenzano, who has collected over 300 items from 40 sports groups, teams, and individuals. More than 40 photographers will also be represented in the exhibit.

Saturday's benefit will include food and fun, and raffle prizes.

Historical society board members Don Romesburg and Leslie Adams will emcee a live auction. Raffle and auction items include a three-night stay at a Russian River vacation home, a Gold's Gym membership, and private athletic coaching.

Admission to the benefit is \$8 per person and includes a coupon to the Sports Basement store.

For more information about the historical society, call (415) 777-5455 or visit [www.glbthistory.org](http://www.glbthistory.org).



## Queers to join antiwar rally

The next mass mobilization against the war in Iraq is slated for Saturday,

March 19 and queer activists are forming a contingent for the event. LGBT folks are asked to meet at Dolores Park (near the entrance steps at 19th and Dolores streets, where they've met before) at 11 a.m. Activist Tommi Avicolli Mecca will have a "Queers for Peace and Justice" banner and participants are asked to bring their own banners, signs, and noisemakers.

After meeting in the park, participants will march to Civic Center Plaza for a 1 p.m. rally. Saturday marks the second anniversary of the start of the war.

## Prime Timers to meet

The San Francisco Prime Timers, a group for older gays, will meet Sunday, March 20 at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin Street at Geary, from 2 to 4 p.m. The special guest will be Diana Gray, a program manager with the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program, who will give a presentation entitled "Everything You Wanted to Know About Medi-Cal and Medicare." Additionally, the meeting will cover other topics related to rights and services for seniors in general. The meeting is free and open to the public and light refreshments will be served. For more information, call Arthur Hurwith at (415) 648-8678.

## Oakland candidate forum

City Council candidates vying for the open District 2 seat in Oakland will speak at a community forum Monday, March 21 at the International Friendship House, 523 International Boulevard at 5th Avenue in Oakland. The forum runs from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public. Nine candidates — including out lesbian Peggy Moore — are in the race to fill the unexpired term of former Council member Danny Wan, who resigned in January, citing personal reasons. The special election is being conducted by mail between April 18 and May 17 in District 2.

Monday's forum is being hosted by a coalition of organizations, including the Asian Pacific Environmental Network. **page 12 ►**

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**Holy Thursday, March 24**  
8 a.m. Sung Morning Prayer  
7:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper  
Adoration until midnight.

**Good Friday, March 25**  
8 a.m. Sung Morning Prayer  
7:30 p.m. Lord's Passion  
Noon - 3 p.m. Church open for private devotion

**Holy Saturday, March 26**  
8 a.m. Sung Morning Prayer  
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**Easter Sunday, March 27**  
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# Gay club goes with Moore

by Cynthia Laird

**A**s widely expected, out lesbian Oakland City Council candidate Peggy Moore garnered the endorsement of the East Bay Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club Monday, March 14.

Moore and eight other candidates are running in a special election to replace openly gay former District 2 Council member Danny Wan, who resigned in January. The election is being conducted by mail between April 18 and May 17.

All nine candidates made presentations to the club, and ballots were cast afterwards. Club President and Berkeley City Council member Kriss Worthington said that Moore, the only out candidate who is also the club's vice president, received 71 percent of the vote. About 20 voting members attended the meeting. Green Party candidate Aimee Allison was not seriously expected to get the endorsement because the chartered Democratic club must endorse candidates from that party, Worthington explained.

According to candidate questionnaires, all support same-sex



Candidate Peggy Moore

marriage. They also support needle exchange programs to help stop the spread of AIDS, with candidate Paul Garrison offering a caveat.

"My first priority is to make sure that people who suffer from addiction and wish to become drug free have available to them drug treatment services," he wrote. "That being said, I would promote a harm reduction agenda at City Hall to halt the spread of disease by needles."

At the meeting, several who stuck around after their presentations were asked whether they support the establishment of a gay district in Oakland. Moore, who sat on an LGBT roundtable with Wan and other community leaders, said that such a district would be a better fit around 21st and Fruitvale, where there are vacant storefronts. Wan had talked up the idea of a gay district at 18th Street and Park Boulevard.

Candidate Shirley Gee said a gay district should be decided upon by the community. "Do you want it? Where do you want it? And where are the resources?" would be the questions Gee said she would ask.

"I think the idea of a gay and lesbian district is fantastic," said candidate Justin Horner, who's chief of staff for Vice Mayor Jane Brunner.

"I agree with the concept as well," said candidate David Kakishiba, who currently serves on the Oakland school board.

Candidate Pat Kernighan, who was Wan's chief of staff, told the club that she had worked on the project when Wan was in office, and continues to support it. ▼

## Another gay candidate in Oakland race?

by Cynthia Laird

**O**akland City Council candidate Paul Garrison had all the right answers at Monday's endorsement meeting of the East Bay Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, but declined to answer a reporter's question about whether he is gay.

Garrison, who works as a bank executive for Wells Fargo and is a board member of the Oakland East Bay Symphony and a former ethics commissioner, was asked in a brief interview if he considered himself part of the LGBT community. He responded that he considered himself part of the LGBT community in the broader context of the Oakland community. Asked directly whether he is gay, Garrison responded, "I don't talk about my personal life."

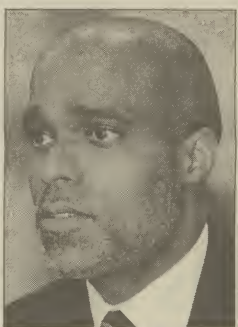
"I'm supportive of equal opportunity but I made the political decision not to talk about my personal life. I feel black men and sex lives are too much in the media," said Garrison, who is African American. He then rattled off the names of Michael Jackson, basketball star Kobe Bryant, and comedian Bill Cosby as examples of prominent African American men who have been caught up in various sex scandals.

Jackson is currently on trial for child molestation charges and has pleaded not guilty. Bryant recently settled a civil suit stemming from what he called a consensual sexual encounter with a Colorado woman. Cosby was recently accused of drugging and groping women, but no criminal charges have been filed and he has denied wrongdoing.

"I'll talk about the issues," Garrison added.

Garrison, who did not get the endorsement, said he favors the formation of a gay district, but said it should "come from the LGBT community."

The District 2 council race in Oakland will be conducted by mail between April 18 and May 17. Nine candidates are vying for the chance to fill the unexpired term of former Council member Danny Wan, who resigned in Jan-



Candidate Paul Garrison

uary, citing personal reasons. Wan was the first — and so far only — out gay member of the City Council. While on the council, Wan pushed for the creation of a gay district.

In fact, Garrison said he was the

runner-up several years ago when Wan was appointed to the council. Criticism followed over the appointment process, however, and the council changed how it fills vacancies to allow for special elections.

There is one out gay candidate in the race. Peggy Moore, who works with LGBT seniors and has taken the lead in organizing the Sisters' Steppin' in Pride Dyke March, is a self-identified African American lesbian.

During the interview, Garrison said he fully supports same-sex marriage. He pointed out, however, that there should be a distinction between religious ceremonies performed in churches and civil ceremonies, and stated that various religious denominations should be free to make their own decision about whether to perform gay unions.

"I do support gay marriage and domestic partnerships," Garrison said. ▼

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## OPEN FORUM

## 'Tradition' tossed

The good news in San Francisco Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer's well-reasoned decision holding California's marriage laws unconstitutional was the utter demolition of two key arguments used by opponents – that marriage between one man and one woman is "traditional" and that such marriages are for procreation.

California Attorney General Bill Lockyer used the "tradition" argument in seeking to uphold California's marriage laws. This is the same man who (until he started working with right-wing homophobes in seeking to overturn the San Francisco marriages) was one of the most gay-friendly state politicians around. As usual, Lockyer wanted to have it both ways; arguing that opposite-sex marriage was the way it's always been defined in the state, so it's that tradition that needed to be upheld; and arguing that California's strong domestic partnership laws offered same-sex couples basically the same state rights, but it's just not called marriage. To his credit, Kramer bought none of it.

"In its rational basis analysis, this court has determined that the state's two rationales ... do not constitute a legitimate governmental interest for the limitation of marriage to opposite-sex couples."

On the second point, Kramer pointed out that some states have interpreted the constitutionality of their opposite-sex only marriage laws as being "rationally related to a legitimate governmental interest in procreation," which was the crux of the arguments presented by the antigay Proposition 22 and Campaign for California Families attorneys. Kramer concluded that there is "no sufficient basis" for that finding in the existing marriage laws.

"Under our present opposite-sex only law, marriage is available to heterosexual couples regardless of whether they can or want to procreate," Kramer wrote. "As long as they choose an opposite-sex mate, persons beyond child-bearing age, infertile couple, and those who choose not to have children may marry in California. Persons in each category are allowed to marry even though they do not satisfy any perceived le-

gitimate compelling government interest in procreation. Another classification of persons, same-sex couples, also do not satisfy any such perceived interest, yet unlike similarly situated classifications of non-child bearers, same-sex couples are singled out to be denied marriage."

Kramer then offered his powerful conclusion on this point. "[T]he advocates of opposite-only marriage have failed to offer any explanation whatsoever for such disparate treatment of similarly situated classifications ... [T]hus, the denial of marriage to same-sex couples appears impermissibly arbitrary." He also noted, correctly, that same-sex couples can "cause procreation," furthering eroding that argument.

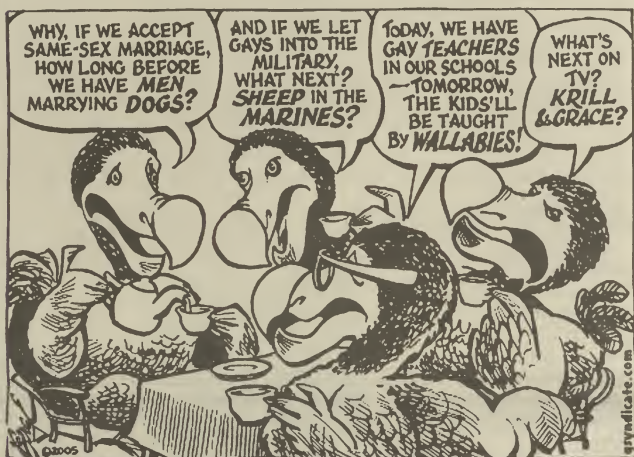
Kramer, a Catholic Republican judge appointed by former Governor Pete Wilson,

certainly has not offered the last word on the marriage issue, and while Mayor Gavin Newsom joked that the city would not be appealing the ruling, the fundies certainly will, setting the stage for a showdown in the state Supreme Court. But Kramer's ruling gives powerful ammunition to proponents of same-sex marriage, as the LGBT community and its supporters embark on public education efforts to persuade Californians that the time has come to end marriage discrimination.

Kramer's most powerful point – and one echoed by other judges – was that "The idea of marriage-like rights without marriage is adequate snacks of a concept long rejected by the courts: separate but equal." It's that bothersome concept that is inherently unequal that judge after judge has rejected, and we hope Californians reject it was well. ▼



## Editorial



## Are real solutions crystal clear?

by Mitchell Halberstadt

A few years back, with queer methamphetamine use burgeoning (spearheaded by homeless youth forced to sleep by day and scavenge by night), graffiti in the Castro Theatre parking lot proclaimed: "Equal time! Where's the meth buyers' club?" Now a Bay Area Reporter article describes a Craigslist posting: "Hey, all you speed tweeeekkkers... Having FUN?... You all have rotting shit for brains!" The article describes several community initiatives against crystal meth – in tones all-too-similar to that posting (and to Frank Sanello's book, *Tweakers*).

Methamphetamine users make tempting targets – but scapegoating isn't the answer if we ask the right questions. Who are our campaigns addressing? Are they likely to relieve our two (distinct) problems – increased HIV seroconversions, and harm from a problematic, addictive drug?

1. If addiction is a disability, messages like the Craigslist posting are sheer abuse. Perpetrated on those with another hardship, they'd instantly be recognizable as unthinkably cruel – but worse here, with paranoia as an inexorable byproduct of the meth "high." Just such paranoia – combined with legitimate wariness (of other tweakers' paranoia, and of drug-war snitches and cops) – eventually lands the "sanest" tweakers home behind computers, jerking off.

2. Ruining someone else's "tweak" is a tired hustle. Its perpetrators resemble "bag whores" who become sadistic as a pretext for moving on in quest of the next bag of dope.

3. Scapegoating meth users dehumanizes them (encouraging them to dehumanize themselves), implying that they're doomed (and deserve!) to die. How about discour-

aging tweakers from seroconverting, or from further spreading HIV?

4. Stigmatizing meth use isn't new: it's standard procedure since the "Speed Kills" days of the Haight counterculture. It didn't much mitigate speed's destruction there. If such a venerable strategy were effective, would we be facing a crisis now?

5. Let's honestly confront this drug's appeal. Otherwise, legitimate warnings about speed will lack credibility, as surely as phony "reefer madness" became the laughingstock of a generation.

6. Tweakers don't tweak in quest of a "wellness lifestyle," or to be paragons of clean living. Crystal's exciting as an "outlaw" drug; tweaking's cachet is being "nasty," "naughty" – a transgressive act. That's especially relevant when many of us still consider ourselves "sexual outlaws." Whether or not one agrees, for many queers, an outlaw panache is inseparable from a vision of gay life.

7. Crystal's "high" combines euphoria, sumptuously heightened pleasure, and delayed (but explosive) orgasm. For a prolonged period, nearly all touching is sensuous – fueling a "feminine" giddiness in many gay males. Such feelings, in turn, can intertwine with gay sex perceived as an aspect of "free love." A first encounter with crystal feels like a rush of free love – albeit (with crystal's treachery!) unsustainable. While some might consider free love merely part of an adolescent formulation of gay sexuality (obsolescent with maturity), for many queers that issue's far from settled – and no, a scapegoat won't resolve it. Meanwhile, those maintaining an outlaw paradigm of romantic freedom remain our brothers and sisters. As a culture, we disown them at our peril.

8. A "Crystal Mess" billboard at the Castro Muni station shows a sweaty tweaker, captioned: "My career was taking too much time, anyway." This approach is the worst. It insults those rejecting bourgeois careerism and maintaining a hippie ethic (the very ethic that declared, "Speed Kills") and promotes crystal as an object of transgressive desire. In effect, it touts speed to a broad range of "alternative-lifestyle" folks – as an emblem of rebellion!

Meanwhile, what are we about? Are we building a world where, in Orwell's words, "the heretic, the enemy of society, will always be, so that he can be defeated and humiliated over again... an endless pressing, pressing, pressing on the nerve of power?" – where [Orwell's tormentor continues] "You shall see yourself as you are.... Look at the dirt between your toes. Look at that disgusting running sore on your leg.... Look at your emaciation.... Even your hair is coming out.... Open your mouth. Nine, ten,

eleven teeth left. You are rotting away... A bag of filth...." Does this – a precise description of a burned-out tweaker! – delivered with self-righteous power – sound familiar?

Or do we want to make it easier for those actually living (including ourselves) to experience freedom and happiness as each of us conceives it? For me, that's the only war worth fighting – and the only life worth living – a prospect worth (among other things) going beyond crystal meth. ▼

The author, 55, is a writer, a veteran gay journalist and activist; he's had his own experiences with crystal meth, and remains HIV-negative.

## Guest Opinion



## LETTERS

## Contest ties should be disclosed

In response to the Leather column ["*Spirit of Saint Louis*," March 10]: In all fairness (and the journalistic standard of disclosure) the columnist probably should have mentioned his connection with the Mr. San Francisco Leather contest. In his modesty, Mister Marcus neglected to mention that he, personally, is now in sole charge of this event – having graciously stepped in to take over from a committee of leather-folk who retired this January. (According to the city records, the actual owner of the title since 1993 is Token Diva Inc.)

I have put on events in this town, from small fundraisers to international leather contests, and taken my share of compliments and complaints – many from the leather columnist of the B.A.R. I don't consider it at all unreasonable for those who have in the past supported the contest with contestants, donations, and advertisements in the contest program, who have reported on the contest, volunteered at the contest, etc. to feel a certain right to comment on how the event is conducted. What Mister Marcus does, however, with all these offers to help, suggestions, support, or critiques is entirely his responsibility.

Personally, I wish him all the luck in the world. It is never easy to be in the hot seat, but it is understandably more difficult trying to fill the dual (and often conflicting) roles of an ethical journalist while at the same time promoting your principal interest in events on which you are supposed to be reporting.

Robert Davolt  
San Francisco

## Bummed over bar squabble

As a senior (66) Polk Gulch activist for 25 years, I feel free to jump into the melee over the Club Rendez-Vous matter of relocation in our area.

As a co-founder of Larkin Street Youth Services 21 years ago, I am dismayed by the tone of their letter, not the content [Mailstrom, March 3]. Twenty-one years ago, LSYS did not exist. The Club-Rendez-Vous did.

As a co-founder of Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church, on Polk Street, my job, as a senior deacon, was to deal with the youth that came to us needing services.

I founded "Partners." Partners did all the things LSYS does now, so there is no need to elaborate.

What I find most disheartening is that LSYS – and the church, for that matter – have lost touch with the "roots" of Polk Gulch.

I suggest (and am willing to serve) that an assemblage of people from LSYS and the church see and embrace the KQED Frontline documentary, *Children of the Night*, which I also co-produced. It won national awards, and was a help in getting the word out about the needs of these young people.

There were 15-20 boys a night out on Polk with prices for their work. Some just saw it as that.

Wayne Smith  
San Francisco

## Misses Club Rendez-Vous

If Larkin Street Youth Services was doing its job, there would not be so many kids selling their ass for drug money.

The Rendez-Vous had nothing to do with that problem. In fact, the owners called police to help get the young people off the street.

It is a shame that a small group of busybodies can prevent the bar from opening at a new location.

I know David Kapp and know he only wanted a place for us locals to have a drink with friends.

I miss the bar!

Robbie Robinson  
San Francisco

## More rights, not rules

Kudos to the B.A.R. for its critical and intelligent coverage of an issue where well-heeled power brokers wish to declare theirs the "progressive agenda" – and wish to label all dissenters "far-right extremists" ["Guns and gay rights directly linked, say some," February 10].

Handguns are explicitly endorsed for use by police officers. All branches of the U.S. military are likewise especially empowered. Last but not least are professional security services.

If this measure were to pass, tens of thousands of San Franciscans would face a 90-day deadline to surrender their arms to armed enforcers. The large number who are not sufficiently obedient will essentially lose the protection of the Fourth, in addition to the Second Amendment; as names and addresses of all handgun purchasers are on record.

Greatly increasing the mandate and discretion for police raids on civilians is not liberal!

San Francisco has a lower homicide rate than every single U.S. city that has sweeping gun restrictions. Following the lead of Chicago, L.A., New York City, and Washington, D.C. is not protecting us.

Laws granting privileges and power to the military and law enforcement; not to mention publicly unac-

countable corporations of strikebreakers and guns for hire – this, by all historic definitions, is the extreme right wing.

Goddess bless all of your intelligence! As a veteran of the "lesbian sex wars," I remember well facing a near-monolithic antiporn consensus among feminists (and an analogous "there ought to be a law," repressive approach to social problems). But alas the debate was had and hopefully "gun control" is being similarly shaken as a shibboleth. Vote no!

I am a skipping, Pollyanna flower child who is as much a "right-wing gun nut" as this police-state ballot measure is "progressive."

More rights not more rules!

Danielle Ratcliff  
San Francisco

## Former 15er offers differing view

Re: "15 Association celebrates 25 years" [February 24]: "Peter Fiske ... joined the club three months after its inception." Hardly. The exact "inception" fades into the past but the 25-year figure is based on the February 1980 filing with the state of California for incorporation (granted October 1980) – a considerable time after conception. I joined several months after that, and more months passed before Peter Fiske's membership was granted.

The article quotes Mr. Fiske's "recollection" that "Back in 1980, everything was very role based. You had to be a top to be a full member." I recall there was such a suggestion, but it was not adopted and, in fact, such a policy would be a direct contradiction of the incorporation documents filed 25 years ago, the by-laws, and the policies that were made available in regular communications of the association provided to Mr. Fiske. What I recall is countless hours of organizational meetings in which "pushy bottoms" exercised their official positions and rights of fraternal membership. I also recall personally preparing and providing some of the 15 Association monthly membership rosters sent to Mr. Fiske listing names of officers and fraternal members who explicitly self-identified as bottoms. As these membership rosters confirm, the policy applied before the current leadership or before Mr. Fiske became a 15 Association member.

The article says "several of the 15's founding members were involved with the mixed-gender, mixed-orientation Society of Janus." It is not explained why the reporter made this observation as the Society of Janus had nothing special to do with the creation of the 15 Association. Insofar as the Society of Janus had a function in the formation of the 15 Association, it was to offer an illustration of how the 15 Association's structure and operation would differ. The relevant organization whose model and assistance were crucial to the formation of the 15 was Chicago's Hellfire Club.

The article includes what I interpret as a gratuitous slime attack at the founders of the 15 Association by Mr. Fiske, "We are not a leather club from the 1980s breathing its last breath." The 15 Association was never a leather club in the 1980s. A poster and flyer labeled "SM Identity," explaining the difference between "leather" and "SM" was distributed by hundreds throughout the world, was explained in a *Drummer* article, and was part of the membership package given to Mr. Fiske. Had he informed us at his interview he was unable to understand or accept those basic values of the 15 Association, we would have had no problem leaving him behind.

Jerry Jansen, Ex-15 Fraternal and Ex-Chair  
San Francisco

## Mideast dilemma

Very often you cover the anti-Israeli groups in our community – that is fine, you have a right to cover things the way you see them ["Israel trip builds bridges for gay leaders," March 3]. There are a few things, however, that do not seem to be well known.

1. An estimated 885,000 Jews were kicked out of Arab lands and their property taken, 779,000 Palestinians were kicked out of a part of Palestine; most of Palestine became Jordan.

2. In Germany, Jews were not bombing cafes or bus stations, they were killed for being Jewish. Palestinians are not killed for being Palestinians, but because the terrorists run and hide and endanger the population they use as cover.

I myself am part Native American, Northern Lakota. Should the Lakota be terrorists to win back their lands? I think not. Yes, there is injustice and I fight for all men's and women's rights, however, I draw the line at terrorism, which is 100 percent wrong for anyone. There is no justification for the deliberate killing of civilians just to terrorize them, whether that be individuals or governments.

I support a Palestinian state, once they stop terrorism. And I am planning to attend World Pride in Israel in August.

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**HRC pours another**

by Dale Carpenter

There's nothing wrong with Democrats heading gay-rights groups, even in this Republican age. But the Human Rights Campaign's new leader, Joe Solmonese, is among the most partisan Democrats ever hired by a "nonpartisan" national gay political group. While he may surprise us, Solmonese starts with a huge deficit in credibility and influence in Washington, D.C. That's bad for the movement.

With the federal government now firmly in the grips of conservative Republicans, HRC continues to move left. Last year HRC made error after error in this vein: appointing as its executive director Cheryl Jacques, a Massachusetts Democratic legislator whose tenure lasted barely longer than the process to select her; endorsing John Kerry for president so early it lost any hope to influence his campaign; backing transgender inclusion in a federal employment law that would kill the bill; and endorsing a Democratic challenger over Arlen Specter, a senior gay-friendly Republican who's now chairman of the critically important Senate Judiciary Committee. And now Solmonese.

Not long ago HRC was managed competently and smartly, growing in size and power. In the 1990s and continuing through 2003, under the leadership of Elizabeth Birch, HRC could usually be counted on to represent the whole gay community, including Republicans and independents. Its lobbying, its rhetoric, and its hiring of staff reflected a reality obvious to all but the most obtuse: that gay equality will never be secure if we work only with one party while ignoring or blindly opposing the one in power.

While most of its money and its endorsements understandably went to Democrats, HRC supported gay-friendly Republicans in hotly contested races even when liberal Democrats ran against them, as when the group endorsed Al D'Amato over Chuck Schumer for the U.S. Senate in 1996. The gay left squawked about that but HRC never wobbled. As the Specter race showed, it is inconceivable that HRC would take a similar stand today.

Prior to coming to HRC, Solmonese worked exclusively to

elect Democratic candidates. According to Federal Election Commission records obtained by gay activist Michael Petrelis, Solmonese has donated thousands of dollars to Democratic candidates but not one dime to any Republican, no matter how pro-gay.

Solmonese spent the last 12 years working for Emily's List, a fundraising group devoted solely to electing female Democratic candidates who support abortion rights. So if you're a male Democrat who supports abortion rights, you get no money. If you're a female Republican who supports abortion rights, you get nothing. But if you're antigay and support abortion rights and you're a female Democrat, Emily's List loves you.

An example of the latter is the support given by Emily's List, under Solmonese's leadership, to Inez Tanenbaum, a pro-choice Democrat who ran for a Senate seat last year in South Carolina. It did not matter to Solmonese's group that Tanenbaum supported a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, the very worst thing a candidate could do right now on the issue of gay equality.

**With the appointment of Solmonese, it is much harder for HRC to present itself as nonpartisan; indeed, it now barely pretends to be.**

Perhaps that's all in Solmonese's past, a necessary bow to the priorities of his old boss, and he will now adjust to the needs of his new employer. Fair enough, though this well-known track record won't help when he comes calling in Republican congressional offices.

There are more reasons to be concerned. Announcing his appointment, HRC's press release included the obligatory paean to bipartisanship. But this was overwhelmed by an emphasis on how "progressive" Solmonese is. (Progressive is now code language for that unspeakable thing, "liberal.") HRC informs us that he led "efforts to elect progressive candidates." He made Emily's List "the nation's foremost progressive electoral powerhouse." HRC quotes one supporter as praising him for

a "tireless drive to create a more progressive America."

A Republican president just won another four-year term. The GOP has won seven out of the last 10 presidential elections. Republicans have won majorities in the House of Representatives in six consecutive national elections. The Republican Senate majority grew in 2004 and is coming close to the super-majority needed to ram through anything it wants. The federal courts have become so conservative that liberal academics are starting to talk about the virtues of democracy. In this climate, it is not a political asset in Washington to be a foremost progressive.

That is, it's not a political asset if one wants to appeal to both parties. But that may not be what Solmonese, or HRC, want.

Here is Solmonese, quoted in the *Washington Post*, introducing himself to the world as a gay leader: "This struggle that we're in in this country right now is not just for GLBT Americans but for all progressives."

Mark that well. Solmonese wants to work for "all progressives." He sees himself leading the whole struggle of the proletariat. It's not just gay rights he wants, but a better world as defined by the left.

That's his right. But HRC once

represented "all gays," some of whom are not progressives, and did so in a way that appealed to both parties, not just to the progressive one. With the appointment of Solmonese, it is much harder for HRC to present itself as nonpartisan; indeed, it now barely pretends to be.

The gay-rights movement needs effective political advocacy in Washington, so we must wish Solmonese and HRC the best. But we do so in the way one wishes the best to the unrepentant drunkard as he pours another. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. He can be reached at [OutRight@aol.com](mailto:OutRight@aol.com). Some of his past columns can be read at [www.indigayforum.com](http://www.indigayforum.com).

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# The right decision on gay marriage case

by Paul Hogan

Editor's note: While the Bay Area Reporter looks for a new political columnist, following the retirement of Wayne Friday, we have invited several LGBT officials and others to write guest columns. This is the fifth in a series of such columns.

On Monday, Judge **Richard Kramer** ruled that in California "no rational purpose exists for limiting marriage in this state to opposite-sex partners." Since the arguments against same-sex marriage are breathtakingly irrational, it is comforting to have the court agree. This is surely the first of what will be many battles but a crucial victory nonetheless.

Thanks to everyone who made this possible — especially to Mayor **Gavin Newsom** for setting the stage for a lawsuit by granting same-sex marriage licenses last February and City Attorney **Dennis Herrera**, who took up the fight without hesitation. Thanks in advance to all those who will carry on the struggle as the case proceeds through the courts.

Just as important, Assemblyman **Mark Leno**'s (D-San Francisco) Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act is making its way through the state Assembly. What's not to like about protecting religious freedom and



Mayor Gavin Newsom, flanked by City Attorney Dennis Herrera and NCLR's Kate Kendell, is all smiles at a press conference after the court decision was announced.

civil marriage? It will be amusing to watch the fundamentalists in the Legislature contort themselves opposing it. We will find none better than Leno as a spokesman for this sensible change in state law.

The Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club adopted a resolution supporting Leno's marriage bill at its Monday meeting and will be sending it to the California Democratic Party to be considered at its convention in April. There, I and my colleagues in the LGBT Caucus leadership, **Debra Walker** and **Joan Roughgarden**, will help to ensure its swift pas-

sage. It is about time for the Democratic Party to take an unambiguous stand supporting marriage equality. We saw in last year's election that Democrats will be accused of being queer-lovers by the GOP no matter what they do, so they might as well get behind same-sex marriage for real and make some change.

Even the venerable AARP isn't immune to scurrilous antigay rhetoric. USA Next, a Republican front group, recently released an ad blasting the AARP's stance on the president's Social Security "reform" (they're against it) by ac-

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# A transparent disclosure

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

I was talking with a friend of mine recently, when a mutual acquaintance of ours came up. In the course of the conversation, my friend asked me if I'd disclosed that I was transgender to this acquaintance, and seemed confused by my response.

You see, I hadn't told this person I was transgender, because I didn't think I really had to. It simply did not seem relevant.

I have not gone out of my way to hide the fact that I'm a transgender woman. I know that my name is out there. I suspect that 90 percent of my personal Web site outs me in a heartbeat. I've written over 100 columns that focus on transgenderism, and most of them make it pretty clear that I speak from the experience of a transgender person. To try and somehow "sanitize" that chunk of my being would be just about impossible.

More than this, I really have no desire to hide this. I mean, I did that for 25 years or so, why go through all this to hide parts of who I am? Where's the logic in that? It just reminds me of, say, forcing left-handers to write with their "right" hands, or similar attempts to push a seemingly normative stance on a person.

I've got little problem with my history. I've even been one to wear it as a badge of honor, in the same way I wear my graying hair. I've managed to transcend my past to become the person I am today, and I'm pretty damned happy to have done so.

Make no mistake, however: I am not still the person I once was, and few people remain unchanged over a decade or two.

I usually go with the assumption that everyone already knows I am a transgender woman, or can at least find that information easily enough, and don't need me to throw that out there on the table. Coming from that angle can mean no need to hide my past from others, and also allows me to include my experiences as a transwoman whenever it is relevant.

Not every transgender person is willing to be so forthcoming. I have known some transfolks who have gone to extreme lengths to conceal any links to a past within an assumed gender that doesn't match up with whichever one they are living their life in now.

To be honest, I can understand



why so many transgender individuals choose not to disclose, and even why some would go to such lengths.

So much of society puts the onus on transpeople to disclose that they are transgender, discuss one's past, and even tell total strangers just what their genitals are like. I've been queried as to what bathroom I use, and even well-meaning folks have asked what my name used to be before I transitioned.

Of course, if I were to ask a random stranger just what they had in their pants, I would be considered coarse at best. This is not something one asks in polite company. Except, it seems, when asking a transperson.

If I choose not to answer such questions, I am again seen as rude. It is as if my existence as a transgender woman gives everyone carte blanche to ask for any number of personal, even intimate, details of just who I am.

Let me put it this way: Do you let people know you are of a given race, religion, or class as soon as you meet them? Does one say, "Hi, my name is Gwen, and I'm left-handed?" I simply do not think that I divulging my sinister leanings are of any more relevance than discussing my transgenderism when it comes to casual acquaintances.

There's another reason: for some, the discovery of this history can be fatal. Individuals being murdered when their transgender status was discovered is far more common than I would like to see. It shouldn't be that way, but there are still people who will murder a

person based on a real or perceived transgender status.

It isn't always a matter of life and death, but for many, disclosing one's transgender status can mean never being able to move beyond our past. It can only take one disclosure to go from being "so and so" to being "so and so, who used to be a \_\_\_\_\_." We end up as prisoners to our history, and others end up with the say over who we are.

That brings me to one last thing about disclosing whether one is or isn't transgender, and maybe this is the most important. Being transgender can so often be about taking control of one's life, and being not only a label, but being ourselves. And being oneself gives one the power to decide for ourselves exactly what we want to disclose and when.

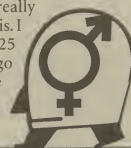
It is really our choice as to what to say, when to say it, and so on. I think that so many feel they can ask us those personal questions, why they feel they can hold our past of more value than who we are now, and perhaps even part of why some choose to violently end our lives is part of controlling those of us who are transgender.

Yet being transgender, ultimately, can mean that only we hold that power. I — and all transfolks — are the ones who get to disclose what we want to when we wish, and we can choose to keep that card in the hole if we want.

That is how it should be, even for those of us who choose to disclose. ▼

Gwen Smith sometimes just prefers to keep her label blank from time to time. You can find her online at [www.gwensmith.com](http://www.gwensmith.com).

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# TG job fair next week

by Zak Szymanski

Even in progressive San Francisco, with a thriving and influential LGBT population, transgenders face a 70 percent unemployment rate, according to numbers reported in 1999. For a city that boasts an estimated 15,000 to 18,000 transgender people, such a figure is indicative of larger societal issues, including lack of access to quality training, and discrimination in hiring.

Enter San Francisco Transgender Empowerment Advocacy and Mentorship, a group that emerged from the San Francisco LGBT Community Center's transgender steering committee a few years ago. SFTEAM, in conjunction with the center, will host the first-ever transgender job fair on Tuesday, March 22, at the Center's Ceremonial Room, from 4 to 7 p.m.

The event is free for transgender job-seekers and will include representatives from a variety of companies including Macy's; the California State Automobile Association; the University of California, San Francisco; Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center; Good Vibrations; AIDS Healthcare Foundation; and others.

"We've obtained a number of commitments from employers who will be participating with the vision that providing employment for trans people makes sense in the workplace," said JoAnne Keatley of SFTEAM, who is also the director of the University of California, San Francisco's Transgender



SFTEAM's JoAnne Keatley

Resources and Neighborhood Space program. "Trans people often have great skills that are under-utilized because of past bias in hiring, and so I think there are some enlightened employers reaching out to trans people and as a result will be able to hire some qualified staff."

Keatley said that transgenders often face discrimination based upon gender-normative expectations in the workplace, but that such biases are continuously changing due to the efforts of the transgender community.

"We as a community have been doing a much better job of educating people in the Bay Area of who we are, and about the diversity that exists within us. We have people in our community who are attorneys, doctors, police officers, researchers, social workers, and clinicians. I think that people are getting a sense that we exist as a community and have strengths

and skills we bring to the table," said Keatley. "It's time for there to be a recognition of that, and we're fortunate enough to live in an area where not only does it make sense economically for a company to offer these opportunities to trans people but also it's the law. We have some protections here."

Additionally, Keatley noted a June 2004 report by the Human Rights Campaign that articulated the benefits of hiring transgender employees.

"Employers that develop and implement workplace strategies that address discrimination against transgender employees can enhance corporate reputation, increase job satisfaction and boost employee morale," the report said. "Results can include increased productivity, reduced turnover, and decreased vulnerability to legal challenges."

Those interested in attending the job fair should attend dressed for a job interview, with copies of their resumes.

An event will be held this Saturday, March 19 to help people prepare for next week's job fair by covering the basics of what to expect.

"Individuals who maybe have not had the opportunity to interview can go through mock interviews, get tips on how to update their resumes, and that kind of thing," said Keatley.

The pre-event takes place from 1 to 3 p.m. at the center and is also free of charge. For more information, or to attend the job fair as a potential employer, call Keatley at (415) 476-2364. The center is located at 1800 Market Street. ▼



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# Gay bashing suspect has priors, pleads not guilty

by Zak Szymanski

The suspect arrested in the recent alleged gay bashing in the Castro has a prior felony conviction for carrying a concealed weapon, the Bay Area Reporter has learned.

Jason Lawrence, 21, was arrested Tuesday, March 9 for his reported involvement in an attack that occurred outside Moby Dick's bar on 18th Street on March 2. Victims West Ray Chumley, 40, and Samson Whitaker, 34, said they had been walking from din-

ner to Moby Dick's when a car pulled up and its passengers began yelling, "Faggot." The suspects left the car and began beating Whitaker, who ran into the bar for safety as Chumley attempted to intervene. Chumley fell to the ground in the scuffle and was kicked repeatedly in the head, losing consciousness for a moment. Both men are recovering from their injuries.

During the attack, Lawrence dropped his driver's license and medical marijuana identification card, then returned to the bar later to try to find them. Apparently re-

alizing he had been identified he did not return to his listed address for several days, which meant San Francisco police had to secure a warrant before they could arrest him. Two other suspects in the case remain at large.

Lawrence was arraigned in San Francisco Superior Court on Wednesday, March 9 on two felony charges of assault with great bodily injury, as well two hate crime enhancement charges. He pled not guilty and is being held on \$180,000 bail. The next court date in the case is May 4. ▼

# 'Vie En Rose' Awards Friday

by Zak Szymanski

Sociologist Karl Bryant, a childhood survivor of a psychiatric intervention known as the "Feminine Boy Project," and Sylvia Guerrero, mother of slain transgender teenager Gwen Araujo, are among the recipients of this year's Vie En Rose Awards, given to individuals and groups who work to end the therapeutic abuse of LGBT children by some mental health professionals. The awards will be distributed at ceremony on Friday, March 18, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the San Francisco LGBT Community Center.

When Bryant was a child in the late 1960s, he and his family drove every other week to the University of California, Los Angeles, where he received a diagnosis of gender identity disorder for children for the purposes of controlling his feminine behaviors and identifications. Bryant now studies GIDC — which is separate from the gender identi-

ty disorder diagnosis sought by transsexuals for medical care — and researches psychological treatments of gender-variant children as a part of his doctoral dissertation at the University of California, Berkeley.

Guerrero is being honored for her dedication and commitment to making the world a safer place for transgender children and youth. Other Vie En Rose Award recipients include Mitch Thompson, a city employee who has worked for many years with homeless and marginally housed youth; and Dr. Edgardo Menville, Catherine Tuerk, R.N., and James de Jesus for their outreach work to gender-variant children at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Also to be honored on Friday are Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, for their support of the Skylight Project, a memorial at the center for LGBT people who have been tortured through psychiatric abuse.

Founded by community advocate Camille Maran, the Vie En Rose Awards are distributed annually "to encourage the advocates that do help the children, and to thank them," said Maran. "There's not that many people that do that kind of work and it's not an issue that's real visible in our community."

Friday's awards will be hosted by Maran and James Holloway in the Ceremonial Room and the event includes entertainment by Donna Sachet and Jim Bohannon. Event sponsors include the center, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the Transgender Law Center, Sunrise Printing, and Citizen Cake. The center is located at 1800 Market Street in San Francisco.

The event is free of charge. A social hour will follow the awards ceremony where attendees can meet and mingle with the honorees.

"I'm just moved and very thrilled this year," said Maran, "to have the honorees that I do." ▼

## News Briefs

◀ page 4

ronmental Network, Centro Legal de la Raza, the Green Party, the Movement Strategies Center, and the East Bay Community Law Center. Food and childcare will be provided. For more information, contact Mamie Chow at (510) 444-0640, ext. 315 or e-mail mamie@movementstrategies.org.

### Project Inform benefit

Elevation Salon and Café will host "Hair Cares," the third annual event to benefit Project Inform, Monday, March 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the salon, 451 Bush Street (between Grant and Kearny) in San Francisco.

The event will include hors d'oeuvres, wines, mango martinis, and a silent auction. A \$20 per person donation is requested.

"We are honored to raise funds for Project Inform," said salon co-

owner Henrik Rasmussen. "We love the work they perform in the HIV/AIDS community."

Now in its 20th year, Project Inform is a leading resource for HIV/AIDS treatment information and advocacy services.

For more information on the benefit, call (650) 342-5566.

### AOF/Visual AID event

The Academy of Friends and Visual AID will co-host their third annual "Art Auction at the Clift" Thursday, March 24, from 6 to 9 p.m. at 495 Geary Street in San Francisco. This is the last event of the season for AOF, which expects to award checks to HIV/AIDS beneficiaries later this spring. AOF just held its successful Oscar benefit and has held other smaller fundraisers in recent months.

Next week's event features a live auction of over 40 contemporary paintings, prints, and photographs with auctioneer Stephen Tourell and a preview party. Com-

plimentary wine, cocktails, and light hors d'oeuvres will be served. Proceeds from this event will be split between AOF and Visual AID, which offers programs for artists with life-threatening illnesses.

Admission is \$25 per person. There are no advance ticket sales. For more information, visit [www.academyoffriends.org](http://www.academyoffriends.org) or [www.visualaid.org](http://www.visualaid.org) or call (415) 995-9890 or (415) 777-8242.

### HIV panel to hold forum

The San Francisco HIV Health Services Planning Council will hold a community forum Thursday, March 24, beginning at 5 p.m. in the Rainbow Room at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street in San Francisco. The council (also known as the Care Council) prioritizes the city's federal Ryan White CARE Act funds.

Refreshments will be served. For more information, call Leah Crask at (415) 674-4768. ▼



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# Flower & Garden Show blossoms at the Cow Palace this weekend

by Tyson Gillfillan

A certain sign of spring in San Francisco, the annual Flower and Garden Show opened yesterday (Wednesday March 16), transforming the Cow Palace for five days into a lush showcase for some of the area's top landscape design talent.

Bus cards reading "One part Mojave, One part MOMA, and a dash of Carmen Miranda," encapsulate the spirit of the show, which features 23 full-sized gardens ranging from urban sanctuaries of native horticulture to underground springs and waterfalls to high-concept sculptural installations.

Now in its 20th year, the Flower and Garden Show also features special activities for children, *Sunset* magazine gardening seminars, and 360 exhibitors introducing garden tools, books, and accessories, as well as a plant and orchid market selling nearly 100,000 plants.

According to event organizers, the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show is one of the top six garden shows in the world, and is expected to draw tens of thousands of visitors. It runs through Sunday, March 20.

"It's a great place to take a date," said Sean Stout of San Francisco's Organic Mechanics, while working on one of the featured installations. For Stout and his part-



Ric Lopez of ModernPast, won a silver medal at the SF Flower and Garden Show for his "Leisure" installation.

ner James Pettigrew, this marks their fifth year creating a garden for the show.

"I love watching all the people react to the work," said Stout. "Each year keeps getting better. It's very theatrical, I can guarantee people won't believe their eyes."

That may be particularly true of the Organic Mechanics garden, titled "Resurrect," which features a massive 1,000-pound angel made entirely of recycled car parts, an installation of tumbled beach glass, and a patio made entirely of pennies. According to Stout, their company focuses on recycling

through organic gardening and sustainable landscaping, and hopes to promote those concepts through the exhibit.

Anders Bjorn Byrd of Bjorn Landscapes is using his space to promote sustainability as well, but instead of large-scale sculptural displays, is featuring a natural California butterfly garden.

"I'm hoping to spread awareness of gardens best suited to our climate," said Byrd. "Not just pretty, but one that will respond to and help the environment as well."

A third-generation landscape designer, Byrd said his inspiration

has come in part from his mother, who teaches butterfly habitat gardening in Marin. This is his first San Francisco Flower and Garden Show.

According to Ric Lopez, owner of ModernPast in Glen Park, one of the greatest gifts of the garden show is for visitors to leave with new ideas for their own spaces at home. Lopez is showcasing a garden installation called "Leisure" as well as a contained terrarium display to teach apartment dwellers how to bring a touch of outdoors into the home.

"Everyone is too busy these

days," said Lopez. "I designed this garden to be low maintenance, and urban in scale to encourage people to take a mini-vacation by getting out and enjoying their backyards."

Evoking the whimsy of a 1950s leisure garden, Lopez's exhibit features a fountain and low-profile pool, a path of crushed granite, and a raised pavilion with a tree sticking out through the roof. Lopez cited the modernist work of recently deceased gay architect Philip Johnson as inspiration.

According to insiders, the featured exhibitions can run into the tens of thousands of dollars in materials alone, and the competition to get in is stiff. Organizers of the show have also assembled a prestigious panel of judges to designate as "Best of Show" the garden that best encapsulates the designer's stated vision.

While the prestige is highly valued, regular exhibitors remark that the pooling together of such a diverse range of creative talent, and getting the chance to talk shop with the general public is what makes the effort all worthwhile. ▼

**The 20th annual San Francisco Flower and Garden Show runs through Sunday at the Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Avenue in San Francisco. Hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sunday.**

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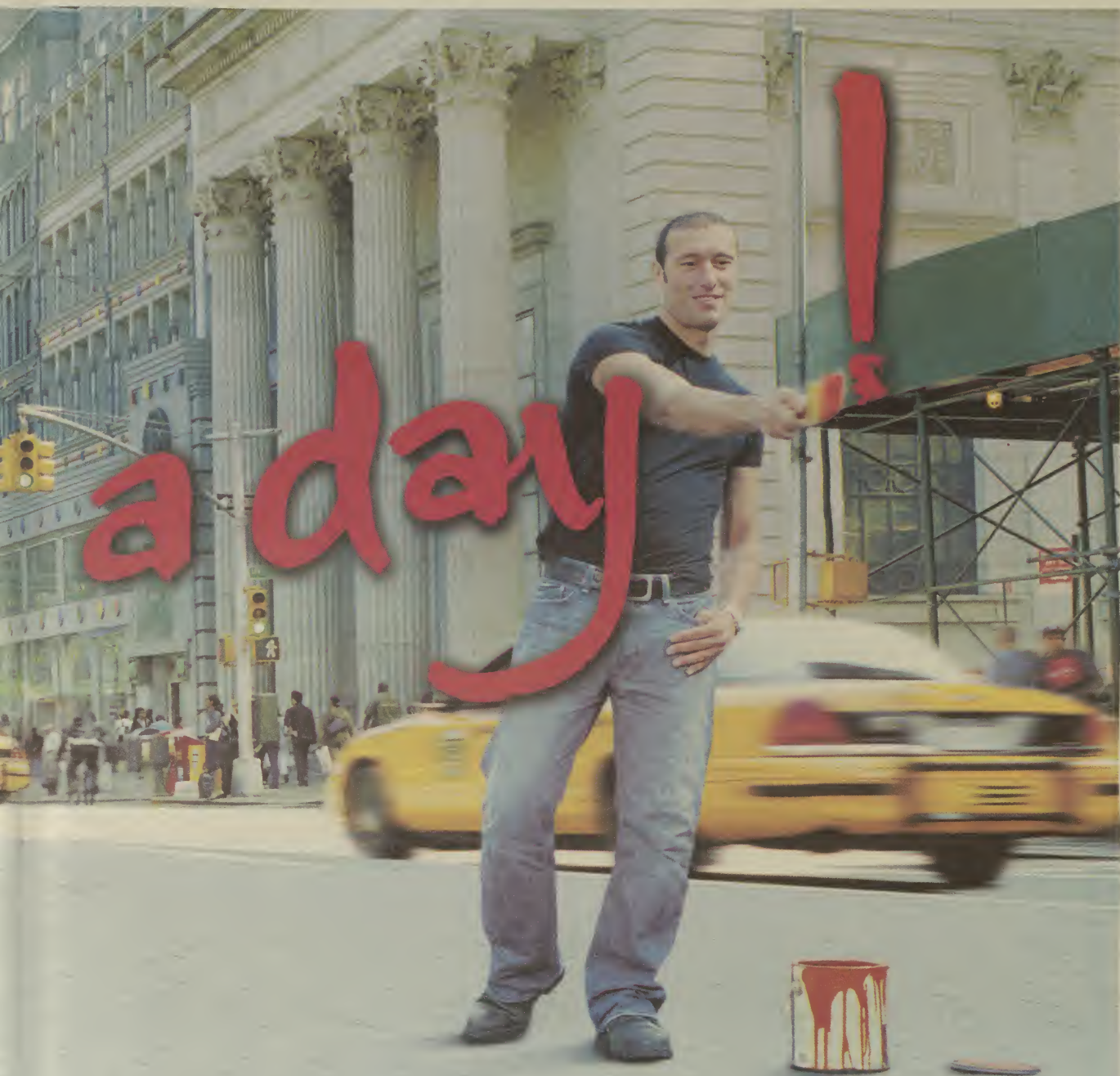
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- **Kidney problems:** If you have had kidney problems or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys
- **Bone changes:** It is not known whether long-term use of TRUVADA causes damage to your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, talk to your healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA

Changes in body fat have been seen in some people taking anti-HIV medicines. The most common side effects of TRUVADA when taken with other anti-HIV medicines are dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headache, abdominal pain, depression, rash, and gas. Skin discoloration (spots and freckles) may also occur.

**Discuss all medicines you take with your healthcare provider and be aware:**

- TRUVADA should not be used with Combivir®, Emtriva, Epivir, Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom™, Trizivir®, or Viread
- Your healthcare provider may need to follow you more closely or adjust your therapy if you are taking Videx®, Videx EC®, Reyataz®, or Kaletra® with TRUVADA

For more information, please visit [www.truvada.com](http://www.truvada.com) or call 1-800-GILEAD-5 (1-800-445-3235) and select option 2.

**There is additional information about TRUVADA on the next page.**



## Patient Information

### TRUVADA® (tru-VAH-dah) Tablets

Generic name: emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate  
(tm is STI uh leen and te NOE to vee dye see PROX if YOU-hee-ate)

Read the Patient Information that comes with TRUVADA before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. You should stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking TRUVADA. Do not change or stop your medicine without first talking with your healthcare provider. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you have any questions about TRUVADA.

#### What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?

• Some people who have taken medicines like TRUVADA (nucleoside analogs) have developed a serious condition called lactic acidosis (buildup of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis:

- You feel very weak or tired.
- You have unusual (not normal) muscle pain.
- You have trouble breathing.
- You have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting.
- You feel cold, especially in your arms and legs.
- You feel dizzy or lightheaded.
- You have a fast or irregular heartbeat.

• Some people who have taken medicines like TRUVADA have developed serious liver problems called hepatotoxicity, with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:

- Your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice).
- Your urine turns dark.
- Your bowel movements (stools) turn light in color.
- You don't feel like eating food for several days or longer.
- You feel sick to your stomach (nausea).
- You have lower stomach and abdominal pain.

• You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog medicines, like TRUVADA, for a long time.

• TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) infection. Patients infected with both HIV and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) who take TRUVADA need close medical follow-up for several months after stopping treatment with TRUVADA. Follow-up includes medical exams and blood tests to check for HBV that could be getting worse. Patients with Hepatitis B Virus infection, who take TRUVADA and then stop it, may get "flare-ups" of their hepatitis. A "flare-up" is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before.

#### What is TRUVADA?

TRUVADA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI). TRUVADA contains 2 medicines, EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine) and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, or tenofovir DF) combined in 1 pill. TRUVADA is always used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with HIV infection. TRUVADA is for adults age 18 and older. TRUVADA has not been studied in children under age 18 or adults over age 65.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops. TRUVADA helps block HIV reverse transcriptase, a chemical in your body (enzyme) that is needed for HIV to multiply. TRUVADA lowers the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). TRUVADA may also help to increase the number of T cells (CD4 cells). Lowering the amount of HIV in the blood lowers the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

TRUVADA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of TRUVADA are not known at this time. People taking TRUVADA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and Mycobacterium avium complex (MAC) infection. It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking TRUVADA.

TRUVADA does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

#### Who should not take TRUVADA?

Do not take TRUVADA if you are allergic to TRUVADA or any of its ingredients. The active ingredients of TRUVADA are emtricitabine and tenofovir DF. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients.

#### What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA?

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. We do not know if TRUVADA can harm your unborn child. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if TRUVADA is right for you. If you use TRUVADA while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about how you can be on the TRUVADA Antiviral Pregnancy Registry.
- are breast-feeding. You should not breast-feed if you are HIV positive because of the chance of passing the HIV virus to your baby. Also, it is not known if TRUVADA can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.
- have bone problems.
- have liver problems including Hepatitis B Virus infection.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- COMBIVIR®, EMTRIVA®, EPVIR®, EPVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM®, TRIZIVIR®, or VIREAD. TRUVADA should not be used with these medicines.
- Drugs that contain didanosine (VIAKAT®, VIDEK EC®), Tenofovir DF (a component of TRUVADA) may increase the amount of VIDEK in your blood. You may need to be followed more carefully if you are taking TRUVADA and VIDEK together.

• REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate) or KALETRA® (zidovudine/zalcitabine). These medicines may increase the amount of tenofovir DF (a component of TRUVADA) in your blood, which could result in more side effects. You may need to be followed more carefully if you are taking TRUVADA and REYATAZ or KALETRA together. Keep a complete list of all the medicines that you take. Make a new list when medicines are added or stopped. Give copies of this list to all of your healthcare providers and pharmacists every time you visit your healthcare provider or fill a prescription.

#### How should I take TRUVADA?

• Take TRUVADA exactly as your healthcare provider prescribed it. Follow the directions from your healthcare provider, exactly as written on the label.

• The usual dose of TRUVADA is 1 tablet once a day. TRUVADA is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you have kidney problems, you may need to take TRUVADA less often.

• TRUVADA may be taken with or without a meal. Food does not affect how TRUVADA works. Take TRUVADA at the same time each day.

• If you forget to take TRUVADA, take it as soon as you remember that day. Do not take more than 1 dose of TRUVADA in a day. Do not take 2 doses at the same time. Call your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure what to do. It is important that you do not miss any doses of TRUVADA or your anti-HIV medicines.

• When your TRUVADA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to TRUVADA and become harder to treat.

• Do not change your dose or stop taking TRUVADA without first talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking TRUVADA.

• If you take too much TRUVADA, call your local poison control center or emergency room right away.

#### What should I avoid while taking TRUVADA?

• Do not breast-feed. See "What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA?"

• Avoid doing things that can spread HIV infection since TRUVADA doesn't stop you from passing the HIV infection to others.

• Do not share needles or other injection equipment.

• Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes or razor blades.

• Do not have any kind of sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to reduce the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

• COMBIVIR®, EMTRIVA®, EPVIR®, EPVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM®, TRIZIVIR®, or VIREAD. TRUVADA should not be used with these medicines.

#### What are the possible side effects of TRUVADA?

TRUVADA may cause the following serious side effects (see "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?"):

• Lactic acidosis (buildup of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. Call your doctor right away if you get signs of lactic acidosis. See "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?"

• Serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any signs of liver problems. See "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?"

• "Flare-ups" of Hepatitis B Virus infection. In which the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before, can occur if you stop taking TRUVADA. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition for several months after stopping TRUVADA if you have both HIV and HBV infection. TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B Virus infection.

• Kidney problems. If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys.

• Changes in bone mineral density (thinning bones). It is not known whether long-term use of TRUVADA will cause damage to your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

Other side effects with TRUVADA when used with other anti-HIV medicines include:

• Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking TRUVADA and other anti-HIV medicines. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

The most common side effects of EMTRIVA or VIREAD when used with other anti-HIV medicines are dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headache, stomach pain, depression, rash, and gas. Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen with TRUVADA.

These are not all the side effects of TRUVADA. This list of side effects with TRUVADA is not complete at this time because TRUVADA is still being studied. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider right away. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

#### How do I store TRUVADA?

- Keep TRUVADA and all other medicines out of reach of children.
- Store TRUVADA at room temperature 77°F (25°C).
- Keep TRUVADA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not keep medicine that is not of use or that you no longer need. If you throw away medicines away make sure that children will not find them.

#### General information about TRUVADA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use TRUVADA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give TRUVADA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about TRUVADA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about TRUVADA that is written for health professionals. For more information, you may also call 1-800-GILEAD-5 or access the TRUVADA website at [www.TRUVADA.com](http://www.TRUVADA.com).

Do not use TRUVADA if seal over bottle opening is broken or missing.

#### What are the ingredients of TRUVADA?

Active ingredients: emtricitabine and tenofovir DF

Inactive ingredients: Croscarmellose sodium, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, and pregelatinized starch (gluten free). The tablets are coated with Opasol II Blue Y-30-10701 containing FD&C Blue #2 aluminum lake, hypromellose, lactose monohydrate, titanium dioxide and triacetin.

#### Rx Only

January 2005

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# LA syphilis mistake unlikely in SF

by Zak Szymanski

**S**an Francisco likely has not been largely impacted by the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center's distribution of the wrong kind of penicillin to over 650 people who had been exposed to syphilis, local health officials and advocates said. But the significant error could have a ripple effect that makes regular testing for sexually active men in the Bay Area even more important.

From 1999 until 2004, The L.A. Center's Jeffrey Goodman Special Care Clinic inadvertently gave Bicillin C-R – half the dose recommended for syphilis – to clients who presented with or had been exposed to someone with the disease. A patient discovered the error last year after reading a packaging insert which stated that the drug was not intended for the treatment of syphilis. The correct formulation of penicillin for syphilis treatment is Bicillin L-A.

Once the mistake was discovered the L.A. Center immediately went public and began working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to compile a report and track down people who received the medicine, according to center spokesman Jim Key.

When not treated successfully, syphilis can progress and cause serious health problems, including organ damage and brain damage. Successful re-treatment will kill the bacteria but cannot prevent damage already done. Additionally, syphilis can make it easier to transmit and acquire HIV and can greatly increase the viral load of people who are HIV-positive.

A report released last week revealed that the center's error actually affected hundreds more people than originally estimated. The CDC findings, published on March 11 in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, stated that 429 patients from January 1999 until March 2004 were treated with Bicillin C-R for confirmed syphilis infection, and an additional 234 patients were treated with the drug for reported sexual contact with someone known or suspected to be infected. Of those confirmed to be infected with syphilis, none were female, and 215 (50 percent) were known to be HIV-positive. Five of the reported sexual contacts were female, and 10 of the reported contacts were known to have HIV.

As of January 26, 2005, the center was able to locate 282 of the 429 people with syphilis, according to the report. Of those successfully contacted, 255 were re-treated, 19 people refused treatment, and eight people were undergoing evaluation. Four percent of the people re-treated were suspected to have had treatment failure, and one person subsequently was diagnosed with neurosyphilis, an advanced form of the disease.

The center also was able to locate 116 of the 234 sexual contacts treated with the wrong drug. Of those, 98 people were re-tested, and 22 of them had serologic evidence of previous syphilis infection.

The CDC noted that the inadvertent use of Bicillin C-R has been documented in several STD programs nationwide from 1993-1998, but that "its misuse in treating approximately 660 persons in a Los Angeles clinic ... is the largest



STD prevention chief Dr. Jeffrey Klausner

reported occurrence to date and posed considerable clinical and programmatic challenges," possibly contributing "to an increase in the local transmission of the disease."

But a variety of factors can influence successful treatment, and "whether treatment failures that occurred among those treated with Bicillin C-R represent an excess over what would be expected had they been treated with Bicillin L-A cannot be determined without additional data," the CDC report stated. It is also possible that the half-dose of penicillin was enough for some people to eradicate the infection.

The L.A. Center's error occurred during a shortage of Bicillin L-A, said Key, and happened before most of the current management came on board, making the mistake hard to trace. As a result of the error, according to Key, the center worked with the CDC to put procedures in place to help prevent such a mistake from happening again. The original packaging of Bicillin C-R, said Key, was nearly identical to Bicillin L-A, but now the color of the carton is different and carries a clear warning that states "Not for the treatment of syphilis." Additionally the center now requires generic names on prescriptions rather than brand names, as well as a pharmacy verification of the formulation.

## SF protections

In San Francisco, according to Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, director of STD Prevention and Control Services at the Department of Public Health, procedures have been in place since 1998 to assure that the correct medicine is given to people with syphilis.

"It's an important function of the health department and an important outcome of confidential STD reporting to assure that people are appropriately treated," said Klausner, emphasizing that without such a reporting system in place, people in Los Angeles who were unsuccessfully treated would not have been found. Klausner is also an advocate of controversial HIV reporting systems, for many of the same reasons.

When news of the L.A. Center's error broke last year, said Klausner, San Francisco officials began contacting local providers to see if similar mistakes had been made here. None of the area providers reported use of Bicillin C-R, he said, but many reported a shortage of Bicillin L-A, and "that's when we started a program

of providing penicillin to medical providers who treat syphilis. We give the medicine at low or no cost to any provider in the city or county to assure that it is routinely available and that the right drug is available."

Yet the fact that hundreds of people believed they had been successfully treated in Los Angeles – and hundreds remain at large – has already been documented as having an effect in the San Francisco area.

Klausner said the city has documented coming in contact with "a handful" of people who had been treated in Los Angeles, some of whom were advised to be re-treated. But there were no confirmed cases of treatment failures in San Francisco residents, he said.

San Francisco will continue its usual awareness campaigns around the importance of syphilis testing, which has been made easier at many area clinics. Steve Gibson, director of the Castro health clinic Magnet, noted that people can download a form for syphilis testing at [www.stdtest.org](http://www.stdtest.org), then bring the form to a LabCorp location and view their results online a few days later.

Gibson said his clinic is concerned, but not panicked, about the L.A. Center's mistake because it is a "site-specific concern." San Francisco already urges sexually active men in the gay community to get tested regularly, about once every six months. This is especially true for those who may have been insufficiently treated, because syphilis symptoms "are temporary, and they go away, and we do have people who come to Magnet with secondary syphilis beyond the first phase – the chancre – and that's not uncommon. Not everyone develops a chancre and since it's not painful you'd only recognize it if you saw it, and most of us can't see our mouths or our butts that well."

Magnet, at 4122 18th Street, offers confidential STD testing on a drop-in basis Tuesday through Saturday. City Clinic is located at 356 7th Street in the South of Market District. LabCorp locations include 45 Castro Street, Suite 238; 2233 Post Street; 490 Post Street, Suite 419; 2000 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 215; 450 Sutter Street, Suite 2540; 3700 Sacramento Street; 2100 Webster Street, Suite 420; and 595 Buckingham Way, Suite 222. Hours vary by location and are posted online at [www.stdtest.org](http://www.stdtest.org) after a test form is successfully completed. ▼

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## Remembering Sylvester



Author Josh Gamson, right, signs a copy of his book, *The Fabulous Sylvester*, for Charles Sands during a release party Friday, March 11 at the LGBT Community Center. Many fans and friends of the diva, who died of AIDS in 1988, shared their memories and rocked out to the disco hits of the fabulous Sylvester.

## Phil Angelides

◀ page 3

same-sex marriages, and actor Rob Reiner, who shot to stardom in the 1970s sitcom *All in the Family* as the character referred to by the show's likable bigot Archie Bunker as "Meathead."

According to the latest Field Poll, Reiner is the front-runner, with one in five Democratic primary voters opting for the film director and producer. Lockyer trails with 17 percent, followed by Angelides with 12 percent. By coming out first, and embarking on a bus tour of 14 cities throughout the state this month, Angelides hopes to boost his name recognition and campaign coffers.

Tuesday night supporters in

San Francisco ponied up \$22,300 to co-host a fundraiser for Angelides, who reportedly has already raised about \$12 million for the race.

Angelides said he wants to lead the country's richest state in order to restore its golden days and ensure a future for its children. He accused Schwarzenegger of turning his back on the state's students, attacking him for defunding education and breaking with the tradition of guaranteeing placement at the state's colleges and universities.

"I can't stand by and watch the promise of California wither away," he said with his wife, three daughters, and parents by his side. "I fear that this governor views the life of hard-working Californians as some kind of athletic endurance test, where only the strong should survive, where we just lavish more on those who have the most."

Angelides's early announcement is an acknowledgment of the enormous amount of money he will need to raise in order to not only win his party's nomination but also to launch a successful campaign against Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The governor has already amassed millions for a second run for office, though he has yet to officially announce if he will seek a second term.

Even before Tuesday's announcement Angelides, a former developer and chair of the state Democratic Party, had locked up

the backing of prominent Democrats from across the state, including U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco), and Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-Los Angeles). Gay politicians such as state Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), former city treasurer Susan Leal, and Palm Springs Mayor Ron Oden have already endorsed Angelides's campaign.

Out lesbian Leslie Katz, a former city supervisor and current chair of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee, introduced Angelides at the event and said he is a candidate the LGBT community can proudly support. If elected, she said he would be a strong voice against any attempts to pass a ban against same-sex marriage.

"A Governor Angelides would do all in his power to fight such a constitutional amendment," said Katz. "I've known Phil for over a decade. He has always stood with the LGBT community. He champions values of fairness and decency."

Asked about the court ruling affirming that same-sex couples have a right to wed, Angelides said he sees the decision as following in the footsteps of earlier landmark decisions for civil rights.

"California has always been at the forefront of eliminating discrimination," he told reporters. "What we are seeing is the march of progress in eliminating discrimination." ▼

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# Online hookups lead author to pen crystal tome *Tweakers*

by Matthew S. Bajko

**M**ind if I smoke?" asked the man.

The question seemed innocuous enough to 52-year-old West Hollywood resident Frank Sanello, who had met the man online and invited him over to his home to have sex.

Thinking the man wanted to have a cigarette, Sanello didn't object. Yet his trick wasn't in need of a nicotine fix. He instead pulled out a glass pipe from his pocket and inhaled a hit of methamphetamine.

Sanello did not partake of the pipe, and proceeded to have sex with the man. Albeit safely. The next time he went online cruising for a hookup, Sanello once again invited over a man who upon entering his home asked, "Mind if I smoke?"

Prior to inviting the men over, Sanello said that "they gave no indication online that they were into PNP" — Internet code for party-and-play, a way for men to advertise that they are looking to do crystal and then have sex.

He didn't ask them to leave, because said Sanello, "I knew I was going to have safe sex. But they didn't want to have it at first; I had to be pretty persistent. One tried not to have safe sex and almost walked out of my apartment. But he decided to stay in the end," recalled Sanello, a former *People*

magazine reporter and author of 16 books, including *Opium Wars: The Addiction of One Empire and the Corruption of Another*.

The back-to-back exchanges last year felt like a "Twilight Zone experience" said Sanello and prompted him to pen the recently released book *Tweakers: How Crystal Meth Is Ravaging Gay America* (Alyson Publications, \$15.95). Sanello will take part in a forum about meth in the gay community tonight (Thursday, March 17) sponsored by the Stop AIDS Project and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

In a telephone interview last week, Sanello claimed that 1.2 million gay Americans used crystal during 2002. The number is based on the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, which found that year that 12.4 million Americans age 12 and older had either smoked, snorted, or injected meth at least once. Using the claim that 10 percent of the population is gay, Sanello came up with the 1.2 million figure.

According to the Stop AIDS Project, 20 percent of gay and bisexual men in San Francisco have used speed in the last six months. With health officials estimating there are at least 68,000 gay men living in the city, then 13,600 of them used the drug since last September.

"It is so highly addictive I doubt anybody who used crystal only used it once," said Sanello.

Sanello tried crystal twice back in 1994. But instead of seeking out countless sex partners, as some speed users report, he sequestered himself in his house.

"It did make me feel horny but I felt paranoid. I spent two days in my bedroom masturbating," he recalled. "It is not a party drug, it is more a 'pull down the blinds' kind of drug. We didn't know then how addictive the drug is or that it was contributing to high incidence of AIDS."

Over six months last year, Sanello spoke to over 100 gay crystal users he met online in AOL chat rooms who advertised they were into PNP or at Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. He also interviewed experts in the gay community and at drug treatment centers.

"Some users knew that they were damned and doing a very dangerous drug but they still did it," he said of the men he met.

Using eight case studies, one of which begins "I used to be a surgeon," he whispers despairingly as he injects himself with crystal. Sanello sets out to vividly illustrate what he sees as "the inevitable downward spiral" associated with habitual use of methamphetamine.

"I wanted to call it 'Lost Souls' but my editors said it would scare people away," said Sanello. For those gay men who do read the book, Sanello said he hopes it "scares them straight" about the

realities of using crystal.

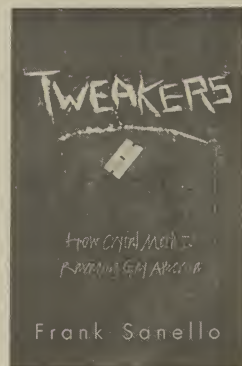
For one, Sanello argues that the drug is so highly addictive that it should not be classified as a party drug. Too many gay men think they can use it on the weekend and not get hooked; they don't realize how quickly the drug can take over their lives, contends Sanello.

"I think they went into it thinking it is only a recreational drug. After it destroyed their lives and they lost friends, jobs, some even end up homeless, only then do they realize it was a drug they should not have used in the first place," he said. "I think to say some people are using it 'recreationally' is the most inaccurate adverb ever to describe such a harmful drug. There is a tiny percentage quoted in my book that can use it recreationally. But the chances of being in that small minority are the lucky few. I wouldn't want to take my chances with it."

And for those who become addicted, Sanello points out in his book that the recovery rate is in the single digits. He cites a March 2003 article by Arielle Chavkin from Tufts University that reported only 6 percent of meth users attempting to remain clean were successful.

"You have better odds in Las Vegas," he said.

In the end, Sanello says his book is not just meant to scare gay men into staying away from crys-



tal. It is also meant to "indoctrinate" gay men about the dangers of crystal use.

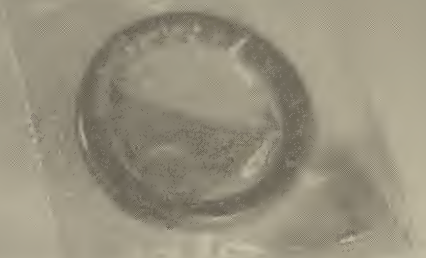
"I'd like to scare people who still think it is a recreational drug" into thinking otherwise, he said. "When people talk about safe sex they educate you about safe sex. I don't think educate is the right word. The word I use is indoctrinate. We all know crystal is bad. We have to repeatedly tell people that crystal is bad and not to do it."

At the same time, Sanello said the community needs to offer support to those who want to escape addiction.

"By using the term scared, it might make me sound like I am judging people. I am not. I have nothing but compassion for addicts. They didn't know what they were getting into and now they are in trouble," he said. ▼

**Tonight's forum will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street, San Francisco.**

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## Gays can wed

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marriage to same-sex couples appears impermissibly arbitrary."

The ruling in effect overturns Proposition 22, which voters passed in 2000. The so-called Knight initiative, named after the late state Senator Pete Knight, defined marriage as a union solely between a man and woman and said California did not have to accept gay marriages performed in other states.

Diane Sabin, who with her partner Jewelle Gomez, joined in the lawsuit against the state, called the ruling "fabulous." While last year when they agreed to become plaintiffs in the case they were unsure if they would get married, the couple now say they wouldn't hesitate.

"If they finally come down with the decision that we can marry we would probably do it because we love a party," joked Gomez.

Writing on her formerlyrosie blog, Rosie O'Donnell quipped "How about that? we have been

un-annulled ... feels nice ..."

O'Donnell flew to San Francisco and wed her partner Kelli Carpenter on February 27 last year. She warned the gay community to brace itself for the backlash the decision will create.

"Now get ready ... cause all we r gonna hear about are 'activist' judges," she wrote. "3 branches of government ... judicial iz one ... check and balance boys ... dems da rules."

O'Donnell questioned whether President Bush will "have the class of Eisenhower," who did not attack Chief Justice Earl Warren for his court's decision in favor of interracial marriages. "Ike said 'there must be no second-class citizens in our country' ... and we moved forward as a nation ... everybody breathe," wrote O'Donnell.

As O'Donnell expected, the antigay groups who were party to the case wasted no time in labeling Kramer an "activist judge." Randy Thomasson, executive director of Campaign for California Families, said, "This is a crazy ruling by an arrogant San Francisco judge who apparently hates marriage and the voters. Kramer has trashed the people's vote to keep marriage for a man and a woman and violated his oath to uphold the law instead of making new laws out of his own head. This is the worst type of judge."

Thomasson said the case would be immediately appealed.

"It's hurtful and insulting to the voters when a judge attacks the voters and destroys the sacred institution of marriage for a man and a woman," he said. "This outrageous ruling will inspire average citizens to rise up and fight to protect marriage as it naturally is — for a man and a woman, a husband and wife."

### Jubilant in SF

The city's leaders and gay community acted jubilant after learning they had won the first stage in what will be a years-long fight for marriage equality. City Attorney Dennis Herrera hailed the ruling as a victory for all Californians, not just the LGBT community.

"Here in California we have



Chief Deputy City Attorney Therese Stewart, left, and lawyer Bobbie Wilson look over the Superior Court decision Monday afternoon.

taken a tremendous step forward today for a more just and fair California that accepts family values for all Californians," he said. "It is time to leave discrimination in the background. This country is changing. We are moving ahead and there is no reason for anybody to be excluded anymore. We are hopeful our opponents will get that message."

Though Herrera added, "Undoubtedly there will be a political challenge as we work our way through the courts."

The decision is vindication for Mayor Gavin Newsom, who shocked the nation when he ordered city officials to marry gay and lesbian couples on February 12, 2004. Until the state Supreme Court put an end to those marriages on March 11, 2004, nearly 4,000 same-sex couples tied the knot.

Speaking at a news conference inside City Hall Monday, Newsom praised the judge's decision, calling it "balanced and fair" and joking, "we will not be appealing this decision." He was referring to the decision by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who despite his personal support of same-sex marriage is appealing a recent New York court ruling in favor of

extending marriage rights to gay couples.

"It's a good day in San Francisco. This is an important day but hardly is this effort complete," said Newsom. "This is just the beginning. This is inevitable."

The decision brought tears to 17-year-old Jonathan Calenzani, a gay senior high school student from Oklahoma City, who was in town visiting a cousin and happened to be in City Hall when the decision was announced.

"This is huge. I was just stunned," said Calenzani, adding he couldn't envision a judge in his home state issuing such a ruling for at least another five years. "It is like a step into the future. It's happening here and someday it will happen at home."

Stunned as well was Chief Deputy City Attorney Therese Stewart, an out lesbian who led the team of lawyers working on the case.

"I was sort of numb," Stewart said of when she read the judge's ruling. "Throughout the case I have tried to not let my personal stake and connection to the issues into the foreground."

Kate Kendell, executive director of National Center for Lesbian

next page ▶

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## Sacramento

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provide fire to their fight against Leno's bill. Even before this week's ruling conservative lawmakers and antigay groups have been pushing to see a constitutional amendment be put on the ballot, likely in 2006, which would make marriage solely a union between a man and a woman. They are now using the court's ruling as a rallying cry to gain support.

State Senator Bill Morrow (R-Oceanside), author of Senate Constitutional Amendment 1, which would enshrine the one-man, one-woman definition of marriage in the state constitution, called the ruling an attack on families and traditional American values.

"This is just another attempt by activist judges to circumvent the will of the voters and undermine the clear intent of the Constitution," he said. "Contrary to the judge's twisted legal logic, this is not an equal protection case. Every adult Californian already has equal access to marriage as provided by law, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation. Instead, this actually is the establishment of a completely new privilege that never existed before."

Log Cabin Republicans of California Director Jeff Bissiri was at odds with Morrow.

"Log Cabin California ap-

plauds the ruling by Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer in support of civil marriage equality," Bissiri said in a statement Monday.

But Bissiri also noted that any movement toward "basic family fairness will involve not only the judiciary, but also the legislatures and the will of fair-minded Americans."

As for Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, when asked about the ruling Monday by Chris Matthews, during an appearance at Stanford University for the MSNBC show *Hardball*, he said he would stand by the decision of the state Supreme Court when it decides on the case. When pressed by Matthews on why not hold a voter referendum on the matter, Schwarzenegger said he wanted to leave it to the courts. He also responded that he supports domestic partnerships.

"And I support that 100 percent and have supported that," he said. "And — but this is the will of the people. And I think that if that changes because of the Supreme Court of California, then we go with that. But, right now, this is just the first base of a legal challenge."

He later added that although he does not believe in gay marriage he would not try to change the constitution if the courts ultimately decide in favor of extending marriage rights to same-sex couples.

Asked if he would "be happy" if voters in the end decide that gay marriage is okay for the state, the governor said "Absolutely. If the people decide — I'm the people's representative. I am perfectly fine with that. The important thing that's it's the people that vote on it. The people have spoken before," said Schwarzenegger, referring to the vote on Proposition 22. "If they speak again and if they have changed their mind, because, remember, things change all the time. I think that as we go on, I think people will be feeling more comfortable with the idea of domestic partnership and also marriage."

In answering a question on if he felt Mayor Gavin Newsom was wrong last year in ordering the city to wed gay couples, the governor also signaled he may likely sign Leno's legislation if it makes it to his desk this year.

"I thought he was overstepping the line, because I thought that this is, again, something that the legislators can do, the people can do, or the court can do, but not individual mayors..." he responded.

Leno is confident he can get the bill to the governor this summer and has been reminding him that the Legislature does represent the citizen's of the state. Whether Schwarzenegger vetoes or signs the bill depends on "whether he identifies the Legislature as the people... we are the people's voice in California," Leno said. ▼



## OBITUARIES

**Kok-Hiong (Sam) Lee**  
1971 — 2004

Sam Lee moved on to a better place this past December 2004. He originally came to San Francisco in 1994, by way of Canada. Sam was born and raised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia where he developed a fondness for water polo and science. At the age of 18, he moved to Winnipeg, where he earned his B.Sc. (Hons.) in Biochemistry from the University of Manitoba and made lifelong friendships which endured to the very end. Sam subsequently moved to San Francisco and continued his studies at the University of San Francisco.

Sam enjoyed San Francisco and all it had to offer. He loved rollerblading in Golden Gate Park, cooking truly decadent desserts, hiking, camping, building furniture, and making Christmas tree decorations. He was also obsessed with figure skating, spending entire Saturdays watching his favorite skaters on TV, and often taking to the ice himself.

Sam was the most extraordinary person: Funny, brilliant, sweet, sexy, stubborn, charming, fearless, delightful and at times utterly exasperating. He was his own man. Sam touched many of us deeply, as boyfriend, friend, and confidant. His leaving so soon and too early has affected us more than we can possibly say. Tom, John, Mark, Kim, Chip, his friends and co-workers, and his family in Malaysia love him and will miss him as long as we live. Sweet journey, you beautiful man.

**Harry Lien**

Harry Lien, age 69, born June 10, 1935 in Fargo, North Dakota, passed away February 25, 2005. He served in the United States Marines and lived in his beloved San Francisco since 1965. A free and gentle spirit, Harry lived simply as an artist, music lover and humanitar-

ian. He traveled widely and especially favored Hawaii. His battle with AIDS was heroic. He was an active and cherished member at St. Francis Lutheran Church, where he volunteered with a feeding program for the poor. He will be greatly missed for his kind eyes and generous smile.

He is survived by a sister Marlys (Roy) Daley and brothers Jerry, Gary, and Larry. A memorial service was held on Sunday, March 13 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Francis Lutheran Church in San Francisco. His ashes were buried in the Memorial Terrace of St. Francis following the usual 11 a.m. service.

**William Duane Swenor**

William Duane Swenor, life partner & spouse of 51 years, passed away suddenly on Monday, March 7, 2005. Bill was 67 when he died. He was born in Flint, Michigan on July 6, 1938. Bill has lived in Hayward since 1968.

Bill is survived by his life partner and spouse, Marvin Burrows and family members: Tina Thompson and family, Dan and Danny Burrows, Al and Jan Burrows, and his many pets.

On February 15, 2004, Bill and Marvin were married in San Francisco City Hall by California Assemblyman Mark Leno. The California Supreme Court invalidated that marriage six months later.

Bill was employed by Owens Illinois Warehouse in Oakland for 38 years, working the graveyard shift warehouseman.

Bill was an avid golfer as well as a cigar and coffee connoisseur. He made many golf buddies over the years, especially his favorite, Tina Conboy. Bill was a successful long-distance bicycle rider

who did several coast-to-coast Canadian rides in addition to several Canada-to-Mexico rides via the Coast Highway. Bill was a professional motorcycle racer for many years, winning over 40 trophies.

Bill was a supporter or member of the Democratic Party, ACLU, Hayward DEMOS, and Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, GLOBE, the Lighthouse Community Center, EQCA, MECA, Gay & Lesbian Task Force, and the Human Rights Campaign.

A Memorial Celebration of Bill's Life was held at the Lavender Senior's Monthly Pot-Luck at the San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft in San Leandro at Noon on Saturday, March 12, 2005.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Tides/Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, The Lighthouse Community Center, or SOS Meals on Wheels, Hayward.

**OBITUARY POLICY**

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

courage" and called on the gay community to reach out to the "hearts and minds" of Californians throughout the state.

"It's simple. It isn't fair, it is un-Californian," to deny same-sex couples equal protection under the law, said Dufty.

**Next steps**

The case now heads to the state Court of Appeals before making its way to the state Supreme Court. It is expected to take anywhere from a year to 18 months before the Supreme Court rules in the matter. Newsom said he is hopeful the matter will make its way quickly through the appellate courts. Until the Supreme Court issues its decision — and if it's a favorable decision — the city will not be issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

"Lives are in the balance," said Newsom, referring to the couples who saw their weddings annulled as well as their children, family, and friends. "We just celebrated their one-year anniversary but this is an even bigger celebration today. It is a great sense of relief from my perspective."

Kendell said it is up to gay and lesbian couples to come out in their workplace, to their friends, and to their families, in order to educate people as to why having marriage rights is important.

In one of the first barometers of public opinion taken after the decision Monday, a SurveyUSA and CBS 5 poll found that 47 percent of people in the Bay Area agreed with the judge's ruling, while 40 percent disagreed, and 13 percent said they were not sure. The poll of 500 adults has a sampling error of plus or minus 4.5 percent.

"We have to change the hearts and minds of people," said Kendell.

Gomez agreed it is up to same-sex couples to speak out on the issue.

"We have to figure out how to tell our story. We have to say to people that we are actually human beings and are not the devil and that it is not scary to give us equal rights," she said. ▽

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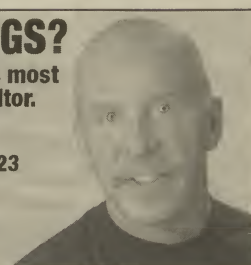
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**Gays can wed**

◀ previous page

Rights, a partner with the city in fighting the lawsuit, beamed with joy at the legal victory and said of the city's standing up for LGBT rights that it is "really an honor to have the city at our side."

"Lesbian and gay citizens in California are full individuals and entitled to full dignity of the law for their lives and their families. That should not be a provocative sentiment," she said. "The day is passing when it is appropriate to single out a classification of individuals for special status."

Bob Kearney, associate director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, added, "San Francisco is showing leadership in the expansion of the phrase 'and justice for all' for same-sex couples in Modesto, Stockton, in the red counties in the north to the blue counties in the south and all counties in between."

**Loss for Lockyer**

During oral arguments in the case last December, lawyers for state Attorney General Bill Lockyer defended current state law because the state's domestic partnerships in effect gave same-sex couples nearly all the rights and benefits heterosexual couples receive through marriage. Yet Kramer dismissed that reasoning, writing, "The creation of a superstructure of marriage-like benefits for same-sex couples is no remedy."

The very existence of the state's domestic partnership laws, reasoned Kramer, leads to the conclusion that there is no "rational state interest" to deny gay and lesbian couples the rites of marriage as well.

"The idea that marriage-like rights without marriage is adequate smacks of a concept long rejected by the courts: separate but equal," he wrote.

As of Tuesday, Lockyer's office had yet to comment on the judge's ruling, with a spokesman saying they were still reviewing the opinion.

Kramer soundly rejected the



Plaintiffs Diane Sabin, left, and Jewelle Gomez celebrate Monday's decision.

argument put forth by antigay groups in the case that an 1859 decision in *Baker v. Baker* found that the purpose of marriage is for procreation and therefore same-sex couples should be denied marriage rights. Just as there is nothing in the law to support the notion that in California, "only virgins can marry," Kramer found the same is true of excluding gay couples from marrying.

"The facts and language of the case, however, do not stand for the proposition that one must be capable of producing children in order to marry," wrote Kramer. Instead, he found that the cases cited by the antigay groups "... confirm the obvious natural and social reality that one does not have to be married in order to procreate, nor does one have to procreate in order to be married. Thus, no legitimate state interest to justify the preclusion of same-sex marriage can be found..."

In addition, Kramer found that any assertion that California's marriage laws do not discriminate based on gender is incorrect. He ruled that anyone who argues that men and women are treated the same because neither can marry someone of the same gender "misses the point."

"The marriage laws establish classifications and discriminate based on those gender-based classifications. As such, for the purpose of an equal protection analysis, the legislative scheme creates a gender-based classification."

Supervisor Bevan Dufty called Kramer's ruling a "road map to

Rick Denner

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# Jock tock

by Jim Provenzano

So, the Human Rights Campaign led the push to save gay sports jerseys. How nice for them. How nice for everyone.

As you've probably already heard, Rex Wockner reported that a person named Gay was denied the right to have an NFL jersey made with his name.

"It's being corrected," NFL corporate communications manager Dan Mason told the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* on March 4. "The jersey will be available shortly."

I copped that quote third-hand from sexy Rexy Wockner, who pretty much broke the story, because frankly I don't give a rat's ass about the inanities of this story, other than showing how "Neanderthal" the NFL is. Who said that? David Kopay. And he ought to know.

He's just one of hundreds of athletes, pro and amateur, whom I've been working with to get this little exhibit going up downtown at the GLBT Historical Society. It

opens April 2. You may have heard about it. If you haven't, you will. You'll see a lot of jerseys in it. There may not be any "GAY" jerseys, but those who wore them certainly were.

And isn't it great that wire services and those few other so-called gay sports journalists around lapped up on the story. Because the revolution is just a T-shirt away, or at least a mesh cutoff away. Such a story is what I call a "throw away," an item that writes itself.

Fortunately, it was solved by now, thanks to all the bloggers who obsessed about it, and the activists who scolded the oh-so-now-progressive NFL into submission. It isn't making that environment one inch safer for GLBT athletes. But go on and order your LOG CABIN SODOMIST FELDCHING BLEACHER BUM official jersey, if it makes you happy.

And in lieu of offering some serious journalism this week, I'm doing a sort of homage to some of the earliest gay sports journalists in this and other newspapers. Some of them were downright

catty! Particularly in those raucous Community Softball League versus Gay Softball League days in the 1970s. It's so fascinating to delve into this history. I've gone retro!

But if you're "older than dirt," as one honoree at last Sunday's GSL Opening Ceremonies joked, then you know of what I write, those days when people basically ripped on each other and played up controversies. While avoiding the scary thought of soon becoming the Sweet Lips of sports writing, I've spent hours and hours scanning and dreamily gazing over photos and other items documenting the early days of this once-little, now sprawling community, because in those days men actually had mustaches and didn't wax their chests, and well, looked terrific, and so did the women. (Not the mustache part).

Anyway, the softball games ensued all over Crocker Amazon Park last weekend. It was a nice, warm day for a softball, but I had to get back to the cool cloistered quarters of the archives. Home-work! On a Sunday!

Some other folks who have done their homework — well, swim work — are another favorite tribe in the GLBT sports world, Tsunami Swim Club.

All the pledges for the club's "Turning the Tide" swim-a-thon, held several weeks ago at the Koret Center, have been counted, and the club raised \$20,352.92 for the American Red Cross South Asia Relief Fund. The team's history of giving continues. Including this benefit, SF Tsunami has raised more than \$76,000 for charitable organizations since 1998. Pretty amazing, since they do it while underwater.

The swimmers' benefit was for the tsunami, you know that horribly tragic event that killed hundreds of thousands of people — oh, and injured a white supermodel and that Nate guy who fluffs pillows — the media forgot even them as soon as Paris Hilton lost her iPod, or her BlackBerry (we know she lost her cherry at about age 11).

True, it was fun to find her



"friends" phone numbers posted online, and give Mark Vincent (Vin Diesel to you) a call to thank him for those old times in New York ("Ah, Mars, we were all on the guest list then!"), and ask him what the heck *The Pacifier* monstrosity is? Something big to suck on?

Vin, still glaringly single, recently told the press he's still waiting for the right ... person.

Team San Francisco doesn't beat around the bush. They need women; strong, decisive women.

The Team SF board has three open positions, and they are actively seeking women to participate in leadership with the organization. Previous Gay Games attendance and local LGBT sports participation is preferred, but certainly not required.

Team SF is making all sorts of plans, like new uniforms for Chicago's Gay Games VII. Let's hope it's a fabulous design. We all wouldn't want to do that walk across Wrigley Field in 2006 in

some outfit that clashes!

The group also needs help in organizing its "365 Days 'til the Gay Games" party at the LGBT Center, Friday evening, July 15. Nibbly things, drinks, swag for sale, and "Lights! Lagerfeld! Guest list!" Excuse my Edina Monsoon moment, but they're planning a fashion show, too. How very avant mode.

And speaking of shindigs, do stop by the Pilsner (on Church Street at Market) this Saturday, from 3 to 6 p.m., where some fabulous items will be raffled off all to benefit the GLBT Historical Society's "Sporting Life" exhibit. I did mention that, didn't I? It seems repetition is proving a sometimes necessary skill.

I'll be doing the classic inseam measurement for willing ticket buyers, particularly if they wear pinstriped softball pants — tight ones.

So, do visit [www.sftsunami.org](http://www.sftsunami.org), [www.teamssf.org](http://www.teamssf.org), [www.glbthistory.org](http://www.glbthistory.org), oh, and [www.sportscomplex.org](http://www.sportscomplex.org) for more info. ▼

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## Play ball!



San Francisco Gay Softball League Commissioner Kathryn Knapp, left, watches an Opening Day game at Crocker-Amazon Park, following the kickoff ceremonies for the new season. Nearly 50 teams will compete in league play this season, which runs through June. For more information, visit [www.sfgsl.org](http://www.sfgsl.org).

Jane Pflomen Orland



## Politics

◀ page 9

cluding them of supporting gay marriage (they don't have a position). Whenever right-wingers are backed into a corner they cry either "9/11" or "gay marriage" and hope nobody notices they're changing the subject. Since the anemic Washington press corps usually gives them no trouble with this tactic, it usually succeeds.

Isn't it sad that while our representatives in Washington are debating sweeping changes to bankruptcy laws and Social Security, most people can probably tell you more about the news about **Scott Peterson, Michael Jackson, or Martha Stewart?** We cannot have a functioning democracy without a news media that is willing to step up and inform the people about what they need to know—not just what is salacious or entertaining.

While we're talking about the Washington press corps, the major news outlets have barely acknowledged that among them in the White House briefing room was one **Jeff Gannon** aka **James Guckert** aka **Bulldog**, right-wing pseudo-reporter by day, hot, military man-date for \$200 an hour by night. When he was not lobbing gooeey love-note questions at the president and his spokespeople, JimJeffBulldog was advertising his, shall we say, ample charms on the Internet to discriminating gentlemen. I often throw around the term "media whore" pretty casually but it's shocking to actually run across one in the literal sense. Kudos to the blogging community for researching and breaking this story.

Just added to the ranks of bloggers is our own Supervisor **Chris Daly**. While I rarely agree with his politics, Daly has the right idea communicating directly with his constituents through his blog. The stuffed shirts at the *Chronicle* can criticize Daly's blog all they want, but they know that the days of the mainstream media as the sole arbiters of what constitutes news are coming to an end. You'd be challenged to find better up-to-the-minute reporting and analysis than what is written at such blogs as DailyKos ([www.dailykos.com](http://www.dailykos.com)), Eschaton ([atrois.blogspot.com](http://atrois.blogspot.com)), and AmericaBlog ([americablog.blogspot.com](http://americablog.blogspot.com)). Daly is on the right side of this trend.

Daly's District 6 will have some guests soon. It was reported last week that the movie version of the musical *Rent* will be filmed in and around the Sixth Street area. The hardscrabble neighborhood won out, according to the filmmakers, because it most resembled the

dirty and decaying lower east side of Manhattan. Thanks ... I think.

You may have noticed a lot of activity by the California Nurses Association opposing Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger's** proposed cuts to nursing. They're on the radio, on the news, and plague the governor wherever he goes. None other than San Francisco's own **Shum Preston** is leading that fight as the communications guru for the nurses. Recently CNA won a lawsuit forcing the governor to allow patient-to-nurse ratios to change from the inhumane levels they're at now to five nurses to every patient, set by a 1999 law due to take effect. Keep up the good work, Shum.

Our wacky Governor and his administration have also been busted for releasing video news segments directly to local television outlets. These sneaky pieces are generally aired to viewers without a disclaimer stating that they were produced by the government. California joins the ranks of several federal agencies in the Bush administration in this dubious practice. Let's hope that our state—so cash-starved that Ahnold is contemplating more cuts to education—is not spending too much money on this Soviet-style propaganda.

Finally, a nod to my former boss **Kevin Shelley**, whose tenure as California secretary of state ended on March 4. We have him to thank for California becoming the first state in the nation to ban touch-screen voting machines without a paper trail. The security measures he imposed on the counties were in large part why California didn't have the same meltdowns that occurred in Ohio and elsewhere. He also proudly supported gay marriage and was the first constitutional officer to come out in favor of Mark Leno's marriage legislation last year.

Shelley's demise is testament to the power of the press that can splash every allegation across the front page but wholly ignore explanations and rebuttals. It is sad that many Democrats in Sacramento, cowed by the Republicans and the media, were far too quick to show Shelley the door without any real evidence of wrongdoing.

And of course on this St. Patrick's Day I will raise a glass to the legendary **Wayne Friday**, whose wit and insight will be missed by all but whose retirement is well deserved. ▼

**San Francisco resident Paul Hogan is currently Northern California chair of the LGBT Caucus of the California Democratic Party.**

## Our Family

◀ page 2

Childhood Education Collaborative, a three-year-old organization that trains preschool teachers and administrators to help create enriching, welcoming environments for children of same-sex parents, and to normalize and integrate acceptance and affirmation of LGBT households. The group created a City College course to train teachers to ensure same-gender representative creative play for students. The program has expanded in the past year thanks to city and Haas Foundation support.

Children of same-sex parents often call, for example, one parent Mommy and the other Momma, an issue which arises when young students craft Mother's and Father's Day cards.

"More and more people know our families are out there," said

Appel.

OFC hosts the Civic Center playground "Kid's Space" at the post-Pride Parade festival. The award-winning family parade contingent generally marches early in the parade lineup to accommodate young attention spans.

OFC is the result of a 2002 merger between Our Family and the All Families Coalition. It was after that merger that Morrison was hired.

Appel and her partner Alison, who works with death row inmates in the office of the state public defender, are PTA co-presidents of their son, Kobe's, Oxford Elementary School in Berkeley. They also have a daughter, 3.

OFC will host its seventh annual LGBT Family Night on Saturday, March 19 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Berkeley YMCA, 2001 Allston Way. For more information and to RSVP, call (510) 848-6834, ext. 541. ▼

## LEGAL NOTICES

### STATEMENT FILE A-0282969-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Yvonne Frazier Consulting, 2330 48th Ave. #1 San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Yvonne Frazier. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/15/05. **FEB. 24 MAR. 3, 10, 17 2005**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0282934-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: GPZ Electric, 434 9th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed James T. Duncan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/13/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/14/05. **FEB. 24 MAR. 3, 10, 17 2005**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0283012-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Christian Horan Photography, 478 Duboce Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Christian Horan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 2/14/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/16/05. **FEB. 24 MAR. 3, 10, 17 2005**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0282951-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Claire's Gourmet House, 3641 Balboa St. San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by a husband and wife, signed Jian Dong Tao. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/15/05. **FEB. 24 MAR. 3, 10, 17 2005**

### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #0280160

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as Gold Center & Imports located at 888 Brannan St. # 152, San Francisco Ca. 94103. This business was conducted by an individual signed Anoush Kasparian. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/21/04. **FEB. 24 MAR. 3, 10, 17 2005**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0282980-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rearden Studios, Inc. 355 Bryant St. #110 San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Stephen G. Perlman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/15/05. **MAR. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0283170-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Covered Wagon Hotel, 800 Moscow St. San Francisco, Ca. 94132. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Shirley Broussard. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 2/1/83. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/23/05. **MAR. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0283085-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Merit Illustration, 665 Natoma St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Andrew Merit. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 2/14/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/18/05. **MAR. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005**

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05541839

In the matter of the application of Carol Anne Nelson for change of name. The application of Carol Anne Nelson for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Carol Anne Nelson has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Carol Nelson Ceres. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 26th day of April, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **MAR. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005**

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05541840

In the matter of the application of Brittany Amber Brown for change of name. The application of Brittany Amber Brown for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Brittany Amber Brown has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Brittany Brown Ceres. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 26th day of April, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **MAR. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005**

### CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Come join other families to celebrate young children on April 10th from 10:00-2:00. San Francisco's festival for young children has free events for everyone, including puppet shows, music, sing-alongs, a jumper, and free books. We are located at Civic Center Plaza between McAllister and Grove Street. If you have any questions, please call Rosa at 642-4420.

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### 2005 ANNUAL POOL OF QUALIFIED ARTS FOR PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

The San Francisco Arts Commission has EXTENDED THE DEADLINE to April 1, 2005 for applications to the 2005 Annual Pool of Qualified Artists for Public Art Projects.

The San Francisco Arts Commission is seeking to establish a pre-qualified pool of professional artists for consideration for a variety of public art projects located at San Francisco International Airport, the Academy of Sciences, Public Libraries, Recreation and Park facilities, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and at other locations throughout the city. We encourage artists using a variety of artistic approaches and media to apply. Sites may include building interiors, exteriors and natural park settings. Artwork budgets range from \$20,000 to \$1,000,000. The 2005 Annual Pool of Qualified Artists for Public Art Projects is open to practicing, professional artists residing in the United States.

The deadline for submissions is 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 1, 2005.

To view the complete prospectus and application visit our web site: [www.sfsartscommission.org/pubart](http://www.sfsartscommission.org/pubart)

Note: All Central Subway Qualified Artist Pool applicants are automatically eligible for consideration for this 2005 Annual Pool of Qualified Artists for Public Art Projects. Therefore, if you applied for the Central Subway Qualified Artist Pool, you do not need to reapply for the 2005 Annual Pool of Qualified Artists.

### SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Free or low-cost health care, (800) 300-9950. If you or someone you know needs immunizations, check-ups, dental care, birth control, pregnancy testing, or prenatal care, call us. We are here to help women, teens, and children find free or low-cost health care. The San Francisco Department of Public Health provides referrals to clinics, doctors, and dentists in San Francisco. Our English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin speaking staff are here to take your call. Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm  
WIC Program  
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Supplemental Nutrition Program provides nutrition education, food vouchers, and breastfeeding support for pregnant women, postpartum women, infants, and children younger than five. Vouchers are picked up at a WIC site on a monthly/bi-monthly basis and may be exchanged for milk, cheese, eggs, cereal, juice, peanut butter/breads, and infant formulas in most grocery stores. All WIC services are free of charge. For more information, please call (415) 575-5788.

### STATEMENT FILE A-0283418-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Metzler Brothers, 675 Haight St. San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Joseph B. Metzler. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/3/05. **MAR. 10, 17, 24, 31 2005**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0283434-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Burke Ventures, 225 Grand View Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Thomas R. Burke. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/3/05. **MAR. 10, 17, 24, 31 2005**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0283439-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Manna Bakery, 1235 Griffith St. San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by a husband and wife, signed Albert Torres. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/3/05. **MAR. 10, 17, 24, 31 2005**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0282920-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Holistic Solutions, 2290 3rd St. San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Ken Estes. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/14/05. **MAR. 10, 17, 24, 31 2005**

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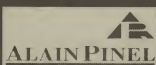
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## LEGAL NOTICES

**STATEMENT FILE A-0283324-00**  
The following person(s) are doing business  
as: KAVI Skin Solutions, Inc. 75 Casa Way,  
#6 San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business  
is conducted by a corporation, signed Kaveh  
Alizadeh. The registrant(s) commenced to  
transact business under the above listed  
fictitious business name or names on 3/2/05.  
The statement was filed with the City and  
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/1/05.  
MAR. 10, 17, 24, 31 2005

**STATEMENT FILE A-0283375-00**  
The following person(s) are doing business  
as: Idea Gems Art & Frame, 274 Capp St.  
San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is  
conducted by an individual, signed Carolina  
Tan-Bautista. The registrant(s) commenced to  
transact business under the above listed  
fictitious business name or names on 3/2/05.  
The statement was filed with the City and  
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/2/05.  
MAR. 10, 17, 24, 31 2005

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO  
SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**  
To whom it may concern: The Name of the  
Applicant(s) is/are: Universe LLC. The ap-  
plicants listed above are applying to the  
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control  
at 71 Stevenson Street, Suite #1500 San  
Francisco, Ca. 94105, to sell alcoholic  
beverages at: 518 Haight St. San Francisco,  
Ca. 94117 Type of License applied for:  
41 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE -  
EATING PLACE  
MAR. 10, 17, 24 2005

## LEGAL NOTICES

**STATEMENT FILE A-0283506-00**  
The following person(s) are doing business  
as: Rue Saint Jacques, 1098 Jackson St.  
San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business  
is conducted by an individual, signed Cher-  
ry L. Sta-Ana. The registrant(s) com-  
menced to transact business under the  
above listed fictitious business name or  
names on N/A. The statement was filed  
with the City and County of San Francisco,  
Ca. on 3/7/05.  
MAR. 17, 24, 31 APRIL 7 2005

**STATEMENT FILE A-0283566-00**  
The following person(s) are doing business  
as: European Psychic, 890 Sutter St.  
San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business  
is conducted by an individual, signed Mike  
Adams. The registrant(s) commenced to  
transact business under the above listed  
fictitious business name or names on N/A.  
The statement was filed with the City and  
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/9/05.  
MAR. 17, 24, 31 APRIL 7 2005

**STATEMENT FILE A-0283577-00**  
The following person(s) are doing business  
as: Royal Loan, 1024 Mission St. San  
Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is  
conducted by an individual, signed Tengiz  
Iosadashvili. The registrant(s) commenced  
to transact business under the above listed  
fictitious business name or names on  
8/11/92. The statement was filed with the  
City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on  
3/9/05.  
MAR. 17, 24, 31 APRIL 7 2005

**STATEMENT FILE A-0283661-00**  
The following person(s) are doing business  
as: The Nutsheil Corporation, 867 McAllister St.  
San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is  
conducted by a corporation, signed Lavon  
Jones. The registrant(s) commenced to trans-  
act business under the above listed fictitious  
business name or names on 10/1/04. The  
statement was filed with the City and County  
of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/14/05.  
MAR. 17, 24, 31 APRIL 7 2005

**STATEMENT FILE A-0283624-00**  
The following person(s) are doing business  
as: U.S.S. Repose, 4220 Cesar Chavez #211  
San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is  
conducted by an individual, signed David A.  
Lara. The registrant(s) commenced to trans-  
act business under the above listed fictitious  
business name or names on 3/1/05. The state-  
ment was filed with the City and County of  
San Francisco, Ca. on 3/11/05.  
MAR. 17, 24, 31 APRIL 7 2005

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND  
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN-  
CISCO FILE # CNC 05541898**  
In the matter of the application of Patrick  
Augustus Walsh for change of name. The  
application of Patrick Augustus Walsh for  
change of name having been filed in Court,  
and it appearing from said application that  
Patrick Augustus Walsh has filed an applica-  
tion proposing that his/her name be  
changed to Aldo Veranzo. Now therefore,  
it is hereby ordered, that all persons inter-  
ested in said matter do appear before this  
Court in Room 218 on the 17th day of  
May, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show  
cause why the application for change of  
name should not be granted.  
MAR. 17, 24, 31 APRIL 7 2005



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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05541867

In the matter of the application of Senada Caus for change of name. The application of Senada Caus for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Senada Caus has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Nadia Caus. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 5th day of May, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.  
MAR. 17, 24, 31 APRIL 7 2005

## NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are: Sergio Enrique Beltransiva. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 71 Stevenson Street, Suite #1500 San Francisco, Ca. 94105, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 2833 24th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. Type of License applied for:  
41 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE - EATING PLACE  
MAR. 17, 2005



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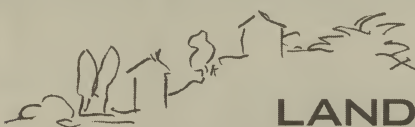
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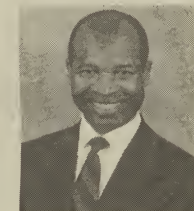
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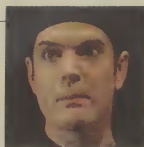
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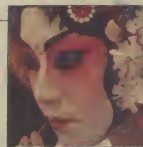


Christopher Rice's 'glorious accident'  
Author talks with B.A.R. about writing  
and his new novel 'Light Before Day.'  
page 33

Stages set for spring  
'I Am My Own Wife,'  
more theatre to come.  
page 32



Lovely ladies  
'Painted Men' of Chinese  
Opera show at SFPALM.  
page 40



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 35 • No. 11 • 17 March 2005

## Pretty young things do screwball

**Erotic  
comedy  
Eating Out  
plays the  
Castro  
Theatre**

by David Lamble



Caleb (Scott  
Lunsford) and  
Kyle (Jim  
Verraros) of  
*Eating Out*

**S**hot in the desert around Tucson in 130-degree temperatures and no air-conditioning, the erotic comedy *Eating Out* invades our Castro movie temple with digital-video images of aggressive women driving humpy poli-sci majors gay. Q. Allan Brocka admits to writing the script to provoke the eye-candy-delicious straight boys in his college screenwriting class to figuratively undress for his pleasure each week.

"I'd get this one cute guy to read all this gay sex stuff, and the only way to make him describe the sex was to have an incredibly long phone-sex scene, which is the centerpiece of the film."

In addition to Brocka's snappy one-liners, and our perception that sweat has been freshly wiped from hunky beefcake just before the take we're seeing, a nice mind-blowing moment is the sight of Emily Stiles approaching her prey in an unconscious homage to a '30s brand of aggressive female, say Katharine Hep-

page 44 ►

## Gay and green

**Queer films  
for the  
Irish in us**

by David Nahmod

*Cowboys and Angels* (TLA Releasing)

**A** delightful surprise, *Cowboys and Angels* (2004) can be looked upon as an Irish take on *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*.

David Gleeson's film tells a simple, charming tale of a straight, nerdy loser whose life is changed for the better after he shares a flat with an out-and-proud art student. As in the popular *Queer Eye* TV series, the gay guy becomes the straight guy's men-

tor and teacher.

Shane (Michael Legge) is a shy, frustrated civil servant who stutters when he's around attractive women. He hates his job, but doesn't know what he wants to do when he grows up. Living on his own for the first time, he meets Vincent (Allen Leech). The two agree to share an apartment. Soon after they move in, Shane realizes that Vincent is gay.

Vincent is studying art and fashion design. He's outgoing, popular, talented, and quite happy with who he is. He's everything that Shane is not. Shane appears intrigued by his new friend, and allows himself to be taken under Vincent's wing. Soon Shane has a new wardrobe, a new 'do, and is attracting the attention of the ladies. He even goes to a gay club with Vincent, and the two have a

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Vincent and Shane (Allen  
Leech and Michael Legge)

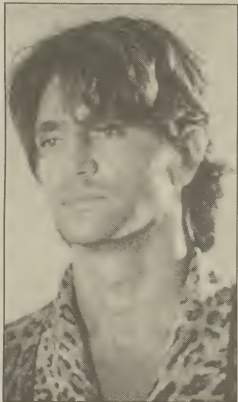
SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



# Letters from the editor

by Roberto Friedman

**Dear Constant Readers,**  
The other day around our fifth double espresso, Out There got to thinking how charming it always is to get personalized correspondence from the great unwashed masses, i.e., you. And we thought how unfair and unbalanced that is, and decided then and there to rectify the situation. So for a change, here are letters from us this week — signed, sealed, delivered, we're yours!



Eric Roberts, please call again.

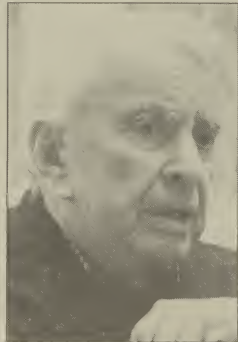
**Dear Julia Roberts,**

We've long been wondering what on earth ever happened to your older brother **Eric Roberts**, once a boner-fide star in his own right (see *Star 80*). But lo and behold, he's still alive and kicking, because he showed up in a recent issue of *Entertainment Weekly*. Seems he's been cast in a music video for buzzy rock band **the Killers**. Roberts had never heard of the band, but he was quickly brought up to snuff.

"They're adorable," the actor told *EW*, adding that he especially has his eye on singer **Brandon Flowers**. "I love the length — kind of short — of Brandon's pants, and the childlike way he

walks." Strange traits to look for in a rocker, duncha think, but there you go.

Julia, what can you tell us about where big bro Eric sets his preferences?



Gore Vidal, thanks for sharing.

**Dear Gore Vidal,**

That was sure a stimulating sit-down between adorably curmudgeonly, 77-year-old you and *Kinsey* director **Bill Condon** in *V Life* magazine recently. The meeting dredged up memories for you of meeting the fabled sex researcher.

**Dr. Kinsey** read your landmark gay novel *The City and the Pillars* in '48, sent you a gushy fan note, and invited you to add your own sex history to the other 28,000 histories he'd collected. "He wanted to do a book on the homo/hetero balance in the arts," you revealed to *V Life*. "He was a little suspicious because so many people in the arts seem to sway both ways. He was always trying to interview actors and musicians. He got to **Leonard Bernstein**, and afterwards you just couldn't keep Lenny away. I think he became the **Scheherazade** of the Kinsey report."

Well, that's droll. But Gore, how exciting was your history?

We're all ears. On second thought, TMI, too much info!



Genesis, viva pandrogyny!

**Dear Genesis P-Orridge,**

OK, so you're our favorite countercultural polymath/provocateur. Your latest publicity promises a brand spanking new **Psychic TV** album later this year. You remixed a "very dubbed-out" version of the **Yeah Yeah Yeahs** "Y Control" with "lots of sub bass."

But the real news in your delirious p.r. is the lowdown on your recent "pandrogyny" surgery. You say, "The three procedures were minor liposuction on my waist to try and get a little closer to **Lady Jaye**, who is adorably thin and **Twiggy**-ish. Simultaneously my

breasty implants were replaced, larger. I am now a 38 D. Our doctor cum sculptor decided that the gestural effect is more close than an attempt at exactitude of measurements. Finally, just for the fun of it, our doctor also took some of my own body fats and injected them under my eyes to freshen them and make them more like Lady Jaye's in shape. The days following are a blur of painkillers and weird constricting bandages.



Out There



Basquiat, this is your moment: Brooklyn Museum hosts retrospective.

Sounds like one of my parties! Jpegs available on request." Uh no thanks, the description alone is worth a thousand jpegs.

**Dear Leah Garchik,**

Listen, we know what it's like to churn out column inches of da gossip week after week, as you do so well, with a staff of able-bodied assistants, for the morning daily. You must be a master of multitasking. Plus you're on that radio show at some god-awful hour of the morning on weekends, and the other day we even heard you spin your favorite discs on the air! Desert island Leah!

But an item from one of your recent columns last week stood out in a rather unfortunate way. "**Paulson** is right. Cats have other events (my neighbor **J [on] C [arroll]**'s homages, for example) all to themselves; what this city needs is a Gerbil Gala. I'm counting the days till the Folsom Street Fair."

We know it's a gag, but the "Gerbil Gala" joke is predicated on an awfully passé prejudice. Punchlines about **R.G.** and his supposed predilection for penetrative sex with gerbils were so over, like, two decades ago. Even the straightest SFers know that Folsom St. Fairgoers only have consensual sex with rodents.

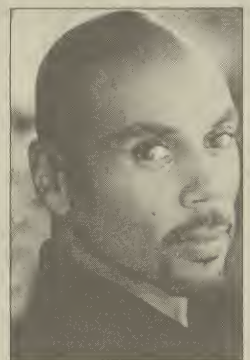
But we can tell from reading your columns all these years that you're no bigot; in fact, your work shows you are consistently humane. Too much gin poured on the breakfast cereal that morning? Oh wait, that was us.

**Dear Catastrophe Waitress,**

Oops, what's the title of a recent **Belle & Sebastian** album doing here? We must be listening to records at work again. Slap us.

**Dear RuPaul,**

WTF, you dropped off the radar for quite a queer while, and then suddenly here you are all



RuPaul, we hardly knew ye.

over the media again, in *Gawker*, in **Musto's** column, and now in friggin' *Out There!* Looking sharp, but all that the mysterious source of a cache of photos that were sent to us would let on is that they were taken "the day he was fired from the radio station." What day, how fired, which radio station? What's the frequency, RuPaul?

**Dear Jean-Michel Basquiat,**

Your moment of greater fame has arrived, with the advent of a major retrospective of your work currently mounted at the Brooklyn Museum in NYC. But alas, you'll never see it because you're dead, overdosed on narcotics in 1988 at the age of 27. You may have been eminently self-destructive, but then again, we're the one writing letters to dead people.

Your strange genius lives on in your paintings, but darling, the things that are being said in your name. Bloated Aussie art critic **Robert Hughes** said in *American Visions*, "The only thing the market likes better than a hot young artist is a dead hot young artist." Ain't it ever so.

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# Celebrated drag queen tells all

'Miss Coco Peru Is Undaunted' at the New Conservatory Theatre Ctr.



Clinton Leupp as Miss Coco Peru: proud to be a drag queen with issues.

by Richard Dodds

The first drag queen I ever saw onstage closed out her act by lip-syncing to Shirley Bassey's "This Is My Life." It was a showy close, but also a little sad, for while it might be her life, the fact had to be declared in someone else's voice.

But when Clinton Leupp, as Miss Coco Peru, finishes his show with "This Is My Life," not only is it belted out live, it puts an honest exclamation point on an evening that really has revealed a life. With issues. Lots of them.

*Miss Coco Peru Is Undaunted* marks the first SF performance for the celebrated drag queen, a term she refuses to shed despite its career liabilities. For more than 90 minutes, Coco solidly holds the stage at the New Conservatory Theatre Center in a carefully wrought collection of ramblings and unexpected songs, staged by Michael Schiralli and with Eric Cole providing piano accompaniment.

Looking like the hyper-groomed Brie on *Desperate Housewives* and sounding like a cussing Anne Meara, the rubbery-faced Bronx entertainer is alternately bitter ("I've been at this for 13 years, and I'm still handing out flyers"), big-hearted (stories about her mother are priceless), and a realist (she sings "Beauty and the Beast" about herself).

While Coco can dangle her feet into a pool of sentimentality, she always yanks them out before going too deep. But when she imagines herself a gay Charles Bronson, taking out homophobic assholes and even obnoxious par-

ents, she lets the vigilante fantasies stand.

It is the brutal honesty behind the comic façade that makes Miss Coco Peru a special event. When she tells us of her dream to star in a stage production of *The Little Mermaid*, we laugh before she convinces us that, damn it, she'd be perfect. ▼

**Miss Coco Peru Is Undaunted** will run at the New Conservatory Theatre Center through April 3. Tickets are \$25 & \$30. Call 861-8972 or go to [nctcsf.org](http://nctcsf.org).

# Spearing pseudo patriots

Dennehy brings 'Trumbo' to life on Post St.

by Richard Dodds

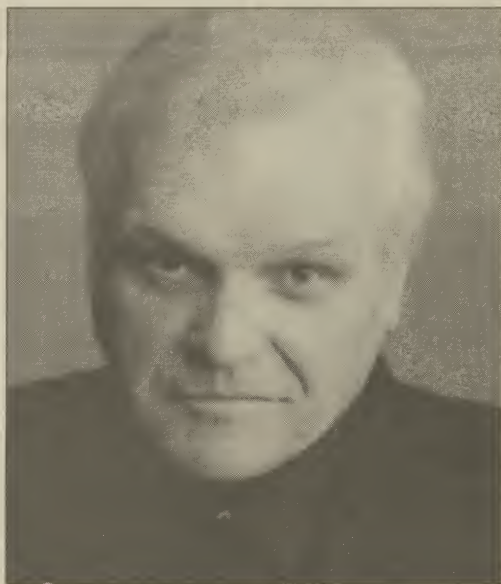
Can you imagine anything more disconcerting than getting a letter from your father on the joys of masturbation? Well, Christopher Trumbo received such a letter during his college years, but if he first shuddered with embarrassment, he was soon showing off the elaborate paean to onanism to all his college friends. Now, decades later, he is sharing it with everyone — or least anyone who has a ticket to *Trumbo: Red, White & Blacklisted*.

As the play's title indicates, *Trumbo* is not really about spilling one's seed. Dalton Trumbo, Christopher's father, was a leading Hollywood screenwriter when his career screeched to a halt after he cockily refused to cooperate with the House Un-American Activities Committee, spent time in a federal penitentiary, and was blacklisted for a dozen years.

The story of the Blacklist and the shameful excesses of what is known as the McCarthy era have been considerably chronicled, but never in the cantankerously poetic way that *Trumbo* manages. Christopher Trumbo constructed this tribute to his father from Dalton's letters that were fueled by soaring passions, devastating indignation, and a precision of language. That Brian Dennehy is their interpreter at the Post Street Theatre makes them seem like epistolary arias.

Dennehy is one in a long list of notables who have performed short runs in *Trumbo*, a play set up so its star can read from a script while seated at a desk. It's a diverse list, careening from Nathan Lane to Eddie Izzard to Gore Vidal to Paul Newman, to name but a few. Each performer will bring a different edge to Trumbo's words, but it's hard to imagine anyone topping Dennehy for forceful delivery.

Trumbo was able to eke out a



Brian Dennehy plays blacklisted screenwriter Dalton Trumbo.

living during the Blacklist by writing scripts credited to others, and finally saw his name returned to the screen in 1960 with the epics *Exodus* and *Spartacus*. He lived until 1976, long enough to see himself honored on many occasions from an industry that had so easily shut him and many others out not so many years before.

Dalton Trumbo was not an easygoing fellow, as we are told by son Christopher (in a friendly, unactor-y performance by William Zielinski). After all, this is a man who began a letter to a local merchant with the following salutation: "Dear Burglars." This is one of Trumbo's acridly playful letters, probably written as much for his own amusement as for the pleasure/horror of the recipient.

But there is no play in his let-

ters to friends and colleagues when he rips at any hint of hypocrisy in their actions. Even Hubert Humphrey gets it for sponsoring a bill with scary overtones of today's Patriot Act (just switch communist for terrorist). "Barbarism parading as American virtue" is a big Trumbo target.

It's a condition easy enough to condemn when it's in the past, but don't you know that Dalton Trumbo would have some choice words for those leaders who never leave home without an American flag pinned to their lapels. ▼

**Trumbo will run at the Post Street Theatre through March 20. Tickets are \$42.50-\$62.50. Call 771-6900 or go to [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).**

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# Springtime for theatergoers

Promising attractions coming to Bay Area stages

by Richard Dodds

With the official demarcation between winter and spring about to be crossed, this is a good time to take a look at promising stage attractions due to arrive before summer sets its own theatrical tone.

One doesn't usually look to

Best of Broadway series for diversely stimulating fare, but the SF variation on the national model plays by its own rules. After all, arriving in close succession, we will see Sir Peter Hall's acclaimed production of *As You Like It*, the world-premiere of the Broadway-bound musical *Lennon*, and, especially, Tony winner Jefferson Mays recreating his

bravura solo turn in *I Am My Own Wife*.

Running May 3-29 at the Curran, *I Am My Own Wife* is Doug Wright's Pulitzer Prize-winning



Jefferson Mays: *I Am My Own Wife*

play that has Mays playing 40 characters. But the central character is Charlotte Von Mahlsdorf, a real-life German transvestite who managed to survive both the Nazis and the Communists.

Like crocuses, a couple of new attractions have recently sprouted on New Conservatory Theatre Center's spring schedule.

One is the return of a new-and-improved version of *Confessions of a Mormon Boy* (April 13-24). Steven Fales' solo drama chronicles his life as a Mormon thor-



Michael Austin as Groucho, Darlene Popovic as Minnie in *Minnie's Boys*.

oughbred who cracks under the strain of keeping his homosexuality a secret, and the fast-lane life that follows his ex-communication.

Also newly added to the NCTC bill is *The Blue Dress* (April 3-17), a solo play by Bruce Bierman about his unwitting childhood participation in a now-famous psychological study of "sissy boys." Bierman has performed the show at two festivals, but his New Conservatory run is billed as its theatrical world premiere.

Lamplighters, the area's veteran Gilbert and Sullivan troupe, is taking on Bernstein's *Candide* for its spring pro-

page 36 ►



Steven Fales in *Mormon Boy*.

## Backstage

## Ladies of the flowers

Lean and mean 'Lilies' at Zeum Theatre

by Richard Dodds

Behind the scenes, could life be repeating art? In *Lilies*, parents in a small town in 1912 Quebec rise up in anger at the homoerotic theatricals a priest is staging at the local school. You do have to wonder how the parents of the MFA students in the ACT production of *Lilies* feel about their sons variously in drag, in nothing, in embraces, and in lip-locks. "We spent all that money for this?"

OK, I'm probably projecting here, recalling how my parents thought my college impersonation of a marsh hawk in *The Birds* was a little bit "effeminate." And I was trying so hard!

Of course, attitudes about homosexuality have changed radically since 1912, and even since my flapping performance the same summer as the Stonewall riot. Even so, the play's displays of intolerance and hypocrisy — not to mention dangerously misdirected homosexuality in the priesthood — don't seem so far-fetched today.

Michel Marc Bouchard's play,



*Les feluettes* in its Montreal production, also directed by Serge Denoncourt.

originally staged in Montreal in French in 1985, is a powerful, imaginative work that is receiving a production of commensurate quality at the Zeum Theatre. The production is something of a hybrid, featuring advanced students from ACT's conservatory and professional actors, and is co-sponsored by Theatre Rhinoceros.

The play (*Les feluettes* in French) was revived in Montreal

in 2002 with a new director and a new concept, and it was a hit all over again. In a masterstroke, ACT has brought in that director, Serge Denoncourt, whose lean-and-mean production has an abundance of heart and heat. This is Denoncourt's first time directing in English, but there are no signs of any language barriers on the Zeum stage, which has been en-

next page ►

**SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, Ruthe Stein**  
 "★★★★ 'WALK ON WATER' HITS A BULL'S-EYE!  
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**THE NEW YORK TIMES, Dana Stevens**  
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 POLITICS, SEXUAL AND OTHERWISE.  
 The movie's quiet intelligence sneaks up on you.  
 Director Eytan Fox is a talent to watch!"

**LOS ANGELES TIMES, Kenneth Turan**  
 "FASCINATING! The film has the spirit to investigate  
 the consequences of giving an enemy a human face."

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**PROGRAM C (Mar 16, 17, 19 EVE, 20 MAT):** DONALD BYRD/BURLESQUE, MUSIC BY LOUIS ARMSTRONG (BAY AREA PREMIERE); ELISA MONTE/TREADING, MUSIC BY STEVE REICH; ROBERT BATTLE/JUBA, ORIGINAL SCORE BY JOHN MACKAY; ALVIN AILEY/REVELATIONS

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## BOOKS

# Walk on the sordid side

Christopher Rice on 'Light Before Day'

by Kevin Davis

Christopher Rice's sociopolitical thriller *Light Before Day* (Miramax Books, \$23.95) forces white lady Christy's gay boyfriends to view their tragic reflections in the same enlightening mirror they snort bumps from.

Rice combines Marine Corp outing, inland empire meth-lab explosions, kiddie porn, and depraved sugar daddies in settings ranging from WeHo coffeeshops to the Central Valley hamlet of Avenal, to our own shady Tenderloin, while drawing parallels between generational cycles of sexual abuse and internalized homophobia.

Adam Murphy's editor rejects his hard-hitting pieces at a crotch-es-n-gin gay rag while he approaches the shallow bottom of a short drinking and drugging career. When Murphy investigates the disappearance of his two-week boyfriend and trips up on his first day by spooking a developing source, a pimp for slightly post-pubescent callboys, he agrees to work under the wing of a grizzled true-crime writer, whose sharp deductions humble him. When the mentor calls off the pursuit and surveillance, grounding him for his protection, Murphy sneaks out to finish the job himself.

"Jimmy says there's always a point where the major character takes over and the author's just a spectator," the elderly writer's wife tells their "little man," neatly summing up ties between both Murphy and his pseudo-parents and Rice and his real-life ones—goth godmother Anne and late SFSU Creative Writing Department Chair Stan. "It's his least favorite part of the process, but it's gotta happen," she says.

In a phone conversation with the *Bay Area Reporter* from his West Hollywood home, Rice said the words also address the writer's need to let go and watch "glorious accidents" occur.

"Writing is accompanied by a feeling of powerlessness, because no matter how much prepping you do, you eventually have to let the muse take over," said Rice, who moved from a 17th-and-Noe St. Victorian to New Orleans' affluent Garden District at age 10.

"Once we moved, gay people were invisible to me," he said. "It was very traumatic, a huge culture



Brian Oster

'My only goal is to keep writing.'

shock, like night and day, going from a small, hippie grammar school where we called our lesbian teacher by her first name to an Episcopal school where we wore polo shirts and parted our hair on the side."

Rice heads off critics who might blame queer youth suicide and gay bashings on this story of wealthy old chicken hawks assaulting teens. His Murphy tells his mentor, "There's a gay kid in Wisconsin who's fingering a box of razor blades right now. You're giving ammunition to the assholes who shove him in a locker each day."

"My creative process doesn't take place on a political plane of thought," said Rice. "I have no interest in stopping discussion of the darker aspects of [the gay community] because it arms the right wing. I treat those feelings the same as I do voices that say 'I'm Anne Rice's son, so I must be a fraud.' My only goal on a daily basis is to keep writing from a personal standpoint."

"Things are going to be dark. Yes, there are happy, well-adjusted people in our community, but Murphy lives in the world of the thriller. He meets damaged people."

In Rice's novel, a smile drops from a face "like a married father's pants in a rural rest stop." In a Tenderloin residence hotel, Murphy hears the groans of dead prostitutes angry that no one made a musical about their lives.

"I had hurt his feelings, and in his world that was a crime," Murphy says of an unhinged pretty boy who is "too many fantasies all at once, and they all belonged to someone else."

Steve Irish) is the mastermind of the vengeful pageant.

The mood is not all grim, as several subplots provide a bitter-sweet levity. Gregory Wallace delightfully plays an increasingly piliated French countess, while Kevin Cook creates a fascinating exotic bird of a woman as a visiting aviatrix. Wallace and Cook are the prime models for Francois Barbeau and Cassandra Carpenter's imaginative costumes constructed from prison detritus.

This is only the second US production of *Lilies*, which is better known in this country for the 1996 movie version. It's a lovely film, but on stage it is a far clearer and more affecting experience. At least it is in this highly memorable production. ▼

*Lilies* will run at the Zeum Theater through April 2. Tickets are \$25. Call 749-2228 or go to act-sf.org.

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"...simply one of the funniest, sexiest gay films I've seen in a really long time."  
-Ryan Carnes, *The Advocate*

## Lilies

◀ previous page

cased in bars in Alexander V. Nichols' set.

*Lilies*, set in a prison in 1952, is a play within a play, as the convicts recreate a scenario from 40 years ago for an audience of one. It is a bishop, brought to the prison under false pretenses, who is forced to watch scenes from the past in which he was a principal character.

At the heart of the 1912 story is the halting, timorous love affair developing between two students (well played by Steven Strobel and Clayton B. Hodges) and its calamitous ramifications. The bishop, as a teenager (a prissily mannered Andy Butterfield), directed his repressed desires for one of the boys into manslaughter and perjury that sent the object of his distorted affections to prison for 30 years. That prisoner (a gruff

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# Broadway musical bonanza

Five classic American musicals are released on DVD

by John F. Karr

The main difference between a Broadway show and a Hollywood film musical is that on Broadway, they remove as many words as possible to make room for the songs. In Hollywood, they remove songs and add talking.

It was the DVD release this week of *The Classic Musicals Collection* that led to this thought. The five musicals included in the set (available singly but offered collectively at a marvelously low price of \$59.95, from Warner Home Video) are, chronologically, *Easter Parade*, *The Band Wagon*, *Brigadoon*, *Bells Are Ringing*, and *Finian's Rainbow*. The middle three titles are a mini-Minnelli festival, bracketed by two cherished classics. Yes, I know *Finian's Rainbow* was not too well greeted when first released, but it fully deserves reappraisal. It's a swell movie.

*Easter Parade* and *The Band Wagon*, in extensive 2-DVD sets, have been painstakingly refurbished. Check the color and sound against the footage that appears in the new documentaries that were made for this release, and you'll see the striking differences. *Easter Parade* is great fun, with Judy Garland, Fred Astaire, and Ann Miller at their best. What's to complain? There are Irving Berlin songs, and lively direction by Charles Walters. A former dancer and choreographer, he knows the numbers are where it's at. The set has great extras, like the PBS *American Masters* documentary, *Judy Garland: By Myself*, and commentary by Garland scholar

John Fricke that's abrim with facts and arcana. And though Judy's performance of the song "Mr. Monotony" has already been released, it's here with outtakes — 20 minutes of Judy repeating and repeating the number for other camera angles and editing purposes. It's amazing to watch her at work like this.

On Broadway, *The Band Wagon* was a revue. The movie's feat was to take the famous songs and work a script around them. Comden and Green managed that, with their usual middle-brow writing passing for sophistication. Minnelli provided brilliant colors and a flamboyant style that's decidedly stagy. Oliver Smith created lavish sets for the numbers, which Michael Kidd snappily choreographed. It's on this set's commentary track (Michael Feinstein playing quietly factual to Liza Minnelli's cackling hysteria) that Liza talks about a script distilling the dialogue to its essence. But this story's contrivance has no real essence, although it does have a lot of flavor. It's not, as Liza claims, a great musical. But it is one of great interest. There are several classic numbers ("Dancing in the Dark," moving from reality to abstraction and back again; "A Shine on Your Shoes," with amazingly long takes). It has the only screen appearance (!) of endearing Broadway star Nanette Fabray, plus disarmingly handsome James Mitchell in a supporting role. He's a real wet dream. He was "Dream Curly" for the *Oklahoma* movie (and can still be seen on television in *All My Children*). Too bad he doesn't dance here. But Fred Astaire and Cyd Charisse do, quite a bit.



Butch Don Francks and charming Petula Clark in *Finian's Rainbow*.

## Bungled 'Bells'

The talky film version of *Bells Are Ringing* sticks too closely to the script of its stage version, as writers Comden and Green admit in an accompanying documentary. Too bad the movie didn't bring along original director Jerome Robbins' production, because the movie's lost his shaping and snap. Ever heard of the movie's choreographer, Charles O'Curran? A slew of C-grade musicals culminated in the five Elvis Presley flicks he did; how he got this assignment is a mystery. Fortunately, it's not a dance show, but he's no help to the director in keeping things going. Minnelli's formulas—the abstracted skylines, stagebound sets, performers playing for the camera as if it were an audience, and holding for applause at the end of their numbers

—are showing their age. This one needed to feel modern, and doesn't. It preserves Judy Holliday's beloved performance, and she's got all her songs (the one that was filmed but cut is included as a bonus). The pizzazz of Broadway stalwarts Jean Stapleton and Eddie Foy, Jr. isn't entirely becalmed, Peter Gennaro pokes his head in for a moment, and co-star Dean Martin is, well, Dean Martin. But Minnelli's running out of juice; *Brigadoon* is almost entirely a plodding mistake, and though Minnelli had another good drama or two left in him, for his next musical, he embalmed *On a Clear Day* (also recently issued on DVD).

*Finian's Rainbow* was filmed in 1968, 20 years after its Broadway version closed, and it also adheres too adamantly to its original. But

novice director Francis Ford Coppola, on his first Hollywood assignment, can only be faulted for loving the show and its wondrous songs too much (they're all there but one). His camera moves creatively, the cinematic techniques with which he sought to update the material still look pretty fresh, and even though he couldn't go on location (the movie was filmed on the back-lot forest left over from *Camelot*), he's created a breezy confection. His cast is remarkable. Finian is played by Fred Astaire in his very last musical role, and his interaction and dancing with charming Petula Clark, who plays his daughter, are lovely. Little-known Canadian actor Don Francks is Clark's love interest. In a word, he's butch. Discounting Gene Kelly for his self-love, I can't think of another musical film star as virile. With his hairy chest, tattooed bicep and husky whisper of a singing voice, Franck's a real romancer. As Og, the leprechaun, Tommy Steele's a scenery-chewer, but likable. There are strong supporting players like Keenan Wynn and the legendary Avon Long.

Coppola has recorded a commentary track for the DVD, with an illuminating discourse on directing musicals. Although he successfully enlivened the screen musical genre, and the film's not at all stagebound, he regrets not paring the script way back. "All that dialogue isn't necessary," he says. "I'd like to have gotten just the essence of it." It's long at 145 minutes, but still a full half-hour shorter than *The Sound of Music*, and devoid of its sap. It's a movie of great charm, with great songs, delivered in great performances, and yes, at great length. But we're lucky *Finian's Rainbow* was filmed, and filmed so well. Treat yourself to it. ▼

## Gay and green

◀ Arts cover

wonderful time dancing the night away.

At first you might think that Shane is going to come out, that the two will live happily ever after, but this is not the case. *Cowboys and Angels* is without question a love story, albeit a platonic one. Shane and Vincent grow to love each other deeply, yet neither of them compromises their sexual identity. Vincent is gay, Shane is straight, yet they can love each other deeply without having sex. *Cowboys and Angels* is an honest love story that remains true to its characters from start to finish.

The film takes a sharp dramatic turn when Shane, again inspired by Vincent, decides he'd like to go to art school. He turns to drug-running to raise money for his classes. The boys' friendship is tested when Vincent finds Shane's stash in the house, Shane's very foolish choice causes both boys to have a close brush with the law, and their friendship is tested as it never has been before.

*Cowboys and Angels* is a beautiful film about the true meaning of love and friendship. Filmed in the picturesque city of Limerick, Ireland, and in spite of the platonic relationship of the leads, it's one of the most romantic films to come along in years. Actors Legge and Leech are both jaw-droppingly beautiful. They are also superb actors, and the deep love they

come to feel for each other is absolutely believable.

TLA Releasing presents *Cowboys and Angels* letterboxed. Picture and sound quality are superb. Beautifully shot, the film also serves as a travelogue for Limerick, and makes the viewer want to visit this grand old city. Extras include a commentary track with director David Gleeson and his leads, and several deleted scenes.

2 by 4 (Ariztil Films)

Dublin native writer/director/star Jimmy Smallhorne shot the hard-edged film *2 by 4* (1998) not in his hometown, but on the mean streets of New York City's North Bronx. Smallhorne plays tough-talking, hard-drinking Johnny Maher, a construction worker who likes to party. He hangs out in smoke-filled pubs, plays cards, performs karaoke with his friends, and has a girlfriend, Maria (Kimberly Topper). Johnny is one tough dude, but looks can often be deceiving.

Johnny likes to sleep with men. He admits this to Maria, who, though resigned to his bisexuality, says that she doesn't like sharing.

First-time director Smallhorne has the courage of his convictions. Johnny has two male sexual encounters in the film. One of them is brief. The other is a one-night stand with a hustler that is long, slow, and surprisingly erotic. While other films have hinted or talked about the offscreen bisexu-

al dalliances of male characters, *2 by 4* isn't afraid to show Johnny and the beautiful Christian undressing each other, kissing, and lying in bed, arm in arm.

Much of the film follows Johnny's day-to-day life on the job and with his buddies. In these scenes, we see his tormented struggle with his dual sexuality, a struggle caused by suppressed memories of child sexual abuse. Smallhorne, a larger-than-life actor, plays these scenes for all they're worth, and makes the viewer feel the magnitude of Johnny's torment.

*2 by 4* was filmed in Throggs Neck, a self-contained Irish enclave in the Bronx. Most of the characters, like Johnny, are off-the-boat immigrants, and perform their scenes in thick Irish brogues. It's a fascinating look into a community far different from our own.

For some unexplained reason, *2 by 4* features English subtitles, and removing the titles is not an option. One assumes that Smallhorne wanted his audience to be able to understand the heavily-accented dialogue, but the titles are not needed. The actors are speaking English. With or without accents, they are easy enough to understand.

Ariztil Films presents *2 by 4* letterboxed. Parts of the film are poorly lit, as the director was going for a tough, "on the mean streets of New York" look. The film's theatrical trailer is the disc's only extra.

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all! ▼

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## DANCE

# Ballet on wry

Possokhov debut graces SF Ballet program

by Stephanie von Buchau

When I first looked at the San Francisco Ballet subscription program # 4, it resembled a hugely indigestible deli sandwich. The filling consisted of Hans van Manen's bloated *Grosse Fuge*, while the "bread" was Balanchine's *Square Dance*, a piece I thought I loathed, and a world premiere from Yuri Possokhov, always an interesting dancemaker, but set to Mendelssohn's First Symphony, written when the German prodigy was only 15. As my cat would say, struggling with a hairball, *Gaaack!*

My problem with *Square Dance* (1957) dates from the only time I saw it; I can't remember where or when, maybe at Joffrey Ballet? The men wore hokey red bandanas around their necks, the string combo was on stage and there was a "caller" telling the dancers to "do-si-do." Balanchine in his "Americana" mode may be fine for the feet, but the look is often pure Coney Island. Critic Joan Acocella, reporting on the tacky costumes that Barbara Karinska designed for so many Balanchine ballets, once said, "What do you expect from a man who wears bolo ties?"

The program note suggests that Balanchine himself corrected *Square Dance* in 1976 (no costume credit is given), but I suspect that Helgi Tomasson, who is nothing if not tasteful, and maybe Bart Cook, who staged this revival, also helped elevate its visual look. There is no problem with the actual choreography, it is pure Mr. B in his exhilarating neo-classical mode.

Tina LeBlanc excelled in the female solo, her feet darting like tiny tropical fish, her arms floating like butterflies, a goofy half-smile of pleasure on her face. Gonzalo Garcia partnered her as if she were fragile Baccarat crystal. She's actually as tough as a polycarbonate poolside tumbler, but it is sweet to see him being so gallantly solicitous.

Balanchine used pieces of Vivaldi and Corelli for his score; they are as close to baroque wallpaper as you can come, and the SFB Orchestra consistently plays this music out of tune and with scratchy string tone. When he revived the work, Balanchine added a solo for Cook to a Corelli sara-bande. I don't know how Cook danced it, but I doubt he came within shouting distance of Garcia, whose limpid, expressive yet always masculine movements sucked the air out of the auditori-



SFB's Gonzalo Garcia takes a solo turn in Balanchine's *Square Dance*.

um.

## Inventive pleasures

Possokhov is still a choreographic novice, though I liked his new piece, *Reflections*, even better than his first successful work for SFB. Because the Mendelssohn music is so formal and innocent, it allowed the choreographer to be busy and inventive without overwhelming the stage. Employing Sandra Woodall's sassy red and white tutus for the girls and black, one-piece tank-topped boy-shorts for the men, Possokhov made the first movement into a war between those formidable antagonists in white (Kristin Long) and red (Lorena Feijoo). With four soloists and a large female corps, the two duked it out, slipping and sliding on the floor, stabbing their feet and flexing their biceps. Hilary Swank, eat your heart out.

In the second movement, the backdrop of mirrors and open panels gave a hint of backstage intimacy as Damian Smith whipped the imperious Muriel Maffre. (If that new fluffy 'do is a wig, it's adorable.) The traditional scherzo opened with a burst of aerial hysteria from Nicolas Blanc. The handsome, diminutive Frenchman, supported by male corps and soloists, sparkled like his country's best bubbly, exhilarating the blood and tickling the tongue.

Can you top this? Well, yes, SFB can when Blanc's countryman Pascal Molat roars on doing his pyrotechnical Fourth of July routine,

fireworks above the fog. And they both look so happy. Yes, Mendelssohn goes on too long, but Possokhov was up to the challenge. Bottom line: I can't wait to see *Reflections* again, something I rarely say about new choreography.

I don't want to see Van Manen's *Grosse Fuge* (1971) again, unless it is cut in half. It starts promisingly to an orchestration of Beethoven's "Great Fugue," originally the final, overextended movement of the op.130 String Quartet, a piece that belongs to Beethoven's deaf period. The bare-chested men, wearing long black skirts, posture before four quivering girls in Kabuki eye-makeup and skimpy pink teddies. There is some pairing off, but nothing resembling sex as we know it.

If the choreographer had left it at that, it would be okay, especially when the boys — Stephen Legate, Peter Brandenhoff, James Sofranko and Moises Martin — are so watchable. But when the fugue ends, Van Manen produces the lovely, operatic cavatina from the same Quartet. Now the men drop their skirts, and with the women hanging onto their belts, there is a lot of pushing, pulling and simulated oral sex that feels misogynistic, physically ugly and about as erotic as sit-ups. Euros are always bragging about how open they are about sex. So how come it seldom looks like fun in their films, theater, opera and dance? Tickets: [sfballer.org](http://sfballer.org). ▼

## Out There

◀ page 30

Dear Jean-Luc Godard,

We went to see your early film *Masculine Feminine* (1966) at the Opera Plaza cinemas the other evening, and it was cute, twee and somewhat dated. Still, great fun to see what passed for envelope-pushing in the heady days of New Wave cinema. Probably the most shocking thing for us was to see how much and how casually actor Jean-Pierre Léaud smoked his beloved ciggies, and how often he was able to catch them in his mouth from a toss.

Still, the movie has a great line, when one character notes (as

translated in the English subtitles) that the word "masculine" contains within it both the word "mask" and the word "ass." We were chewing over *that* one for days afterward.

But Jean-Luc, why was your latest film so nihilistic and depressing? Why not quit while you're ahead, you know, like smoking?

Dear Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer,

Thank you for recognizing the essential truth about same-sex marriage: Civil rights are not determined by majority vote. You're so adorable for a Superior Court Justice! OT kisses your puss: Mmm-wah! ▼

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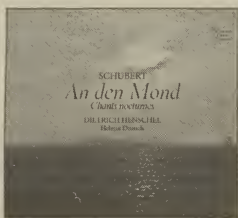


# Circle of friends

## Schubert set songs to the moon

by Tim Pfaff

You could take Harmonia Mundi's new Schubert song CD, *An den Mond* (To the Moon), at face value (and a handsome face it has, too) and have a fine time with it. I did, for the first couple of spins. Baritone Dietrich Henschel and Helmut Deutsch, his regular partner at the piano (Deutsch is too good to be dismissed as "accompanist"), give enthralling accounts of 20 mostly rarely heard Schubert songs, and if morbidity poses no particular problems for you (two songs express the thoughts of gravediggers, for example), you could have a swell time just listening.



Since Graham Johnson's landmark recordings of all of Schubert's 600-plus songs for Hyperion, it has become almost de rigueur for singers to create Schubert CDs around themes. Greatest hits: been there, done that. This CD's subtitle, *Chants nocturnes*, helps with the fact that, on even casual listening, you soon notice that not all the songs are about the moon. I assumed it would include the moonstruck "Der Gondelfahrer," a personal favorite, and was initially disappointed that it did not.

But the more time you spend with *An den Mond*, the more interesting it gets. Credit is in large part due to the keen musicality of the two musicians, who bother to get all the way inside each of the

songs, make the most of their considerable expressive variety, and accord them all the same artistic respect. The songs aren't all lumatic, it turns out, and some even verge on the funny. The bumptious "Lebensmut" celebrates the sheer joy of being young, a sentiment Schubert doesn't exactly overwork.

Suddenly I noticed that, with one telling exception, a hauntingly simple setting of Goethe's *Meeres Stille* in the dead center of the CD, the songs gathered here are set to texts by Schubert's Viennese friends, none of whom was a Goethe (who, for the record, did not return the admiration, verging on worship, Schubert had for him) but who together just may have given the world more time with this inestimable genius of a composer. There's no more solid proof that any of them was gay than there is that Schubert was, but it enriched my listening to the CD greatly to consider that many of them probably were.

The most interesting song on the disc is "Der Zwerg" ("The Dwarf"), which, if no "Erlkönig"

or "Gretchen am Spinnrade," is one of the composer's most dramatic (and weirdly so) songs. Its text is by Matthäus Karl Edler von Collin, who held in his flat the first of the so-called "Schubertiad" evenings that introduced the young composer and his music to like-minded men of Vienna society.

Predictably, "Meeres Stille" is among the CD's high points, with Henschel going to the trouble of finding a way to express the free-floating anxiety of the sailor on a dead calm sea with something other than the going cliché of draining his voice of all color and expression. Instead, he finds a genuinely creepy head tone and sustains it to the point of the nearly unbearable.

In addition to the scattered songs in which the moon appears is an interesting couple of subgroups. The first is a set of songs by seamen (some addressed to the moon) and the second is devoted to the "wanderer" who morphed into the "voice" of the great song cycles, *Die Schöne Müllerin* and *Winterreise*.

The CD's tracks 7-10 take you from "Der Schiffer" ("The Boatman") to "Meeres Stille" ("Calm Sea"); prefacing the latter with the well-known "Auf dem Wasser zu singen." Henschel's darkening of each of its three stanzas paves the way for the creepiness of "Meeres Stille." It's by Johann Mayrhofer, one of Schubert's best and longest-term friends (and, for a time, roommate), 46 of whose poems he set. One, "Nachtstück," is another of this CD's high points.

### Moonlit sonata

In Leif Ove Andnes's ongoing Schubert sonata cycle for EMI, the most compelling musicianship usually has been in the "fillers," Schubert songs in which Andnes accompanies the ubiquitous Ian Bostridge. As it happens, in Andnes's new CD of the great, valedictory B-flat Sonata, D. 960, the three songs that end the CD are also set to texts by members of Schubert's friendship circle. Franz von Schober's "Viola" yields 13 of the most luscious minutes of Schubert singing anywhere on



disc. "Der Winterabend" emerges a haunting evocation of a, yes, moonlit German evening, and "Abschied von der Erde" is a fascinating example of one of the few surviving Schubert "songs" whose words are spoken.

Although it's becoming increasingly clear that Andnes is at his best as an ensemble musician playing technically difficult music, the B-flat gratefully comes out the most satisfying of his Schubert sonata CDs to date. Although he saves his most individual playing for the two spritely final movements, he plays throughout with grace, reverent beauty. ▼

## Backstage

◀ page 32

duction. A 40-member cast and 21-piece orchestra will offer the West Coast premiere of the Royal National Theatre's adaptation of the 1956 musical. Only one SF performance is scheduled, on March 26 at Herbst Theatre, but the production also has dates in Mountain View, Walnut Creek, and Napa.

Charles Randolph-Wright is a regular visitor to ACT as a director, but he is also a notable playwright not lately seen on local stages. The Lorraine Hansberry Theatre is addressing that with its production of the autobiographical *Blue*, running March 24-April

17. Seen in New York in 2001, this memory play looks back on a well-to-do black family with a secret that both sustains and threatens to destroy it. Nona Hendryx (of LaBelle) has supplied the songs.

Following its winter hiatus, 42nd Street Moon returns with a rare staging of *Minnie's Boys* (March 30-April 17). The short-lived 1970 musical looked at the early days of the Marx Brothers, and at their forceful mother who urged them on. Shelley Winters played Minnie Marx on Broadway, a role that local favorite Darlene Popovic will take on in the staged concert at the Eureka Theatre.

Rising-star Liz Duffy Adams, the recent recipient of the locally awarded \$4,000 Glickman Award for her wildly imaginative play *Dog Act*, is back with another world premiere that Crowded Fire is staging at the Exit Theatre. *One Big Lie* (March 18-April 16) follows three time-traveling siblings who must discover in each age who holds the real power.

### Magic shows

The Magic Theatre is back with its Hot House project (April 23-June 19), offering three world premieres presented in rotating repertory. Two of the three happen to be gay playwrights.

Arizona-based playwright Victor Lodato, represented at the Magic in 2002 with *The Eviction*, returns with *3F, 4F*. The residents of apartment 3F are a married couple whose carefully wrought balance of repressed desires and buried secrets is upset when two flamboyant young men move in upstairs.

New York playwright John Beluso, who has used a wheelchair since age 13, makes his Magic Theatre debut with *The Rules of Charity*. The play focuses on a disabled gay man who finds poverty to be his biggest disability.

At Theatre Rhino, Artistic Director John Fisher returns to the show that put him on the mainstream map a decade ago. *Medea: The Musical* (May 26-June 29) was born at UC Berkeley when Fisher was a doctoral candidate there, and moved to downtown

SF for a successful commercial run. Think of it as a gay *Hellzapoppin'* variation on Euripides' tragedy.

Another tragedy, this one for real, looks at the Jonestown massacre/suicides of 1978 through first-person recollections, published histories, and gospel music. *The People's Temple*, having its world premiere at Berkeley Rep April 15-May 29, is the creation of Leigh Fondakowski. She was head writer on *The Laramie Project* and later created the lesbian-themed *I Think I Like Girls* in SF.

ACT snagged the rights to offer the Bay Area debut of *The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?* (June 10-July 10), Edward Albee's recent play in which a gay son is the least of a family's sexual crises. Instead, bestiality is thrown into the equation, a development with nothing like a PFLAG to comfort the relatives of the newly out ruminant lover. The play is actually quite funny—in a perverse sort of way. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at [BARstage@aol.com](mailto:BARstage@aol.com).

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# Survival of the fittest

Veteran actress Pam Grier keeps on going

by David R. Guarino

Perhaps one of the most compelling performances to be found on Showtime's continuing lesbian drama *The L Word* is the profile of reformed alcoholic/singer/older sister Kit Porter, brought to vivid life in an outstanding portrayal by veteran actress Pam Grier.

As the outgoing, ostensibly wiser yet misunderstood older sister to Jennifer Beals' character of Bette Porter, Grier shines as a well-meaning yet undeniably flawed sibling. The character of Kit unfolds as a lovable but gritty survivor who takes nothing for granted, even the love of her own son or her sister. If anything seems certain in the world of Kit, it's her innate ability to survive. As an optimist, she has to make it; it's almost as if she doesn't really even have a choice.

It's a role that mirrors Grier's own life and career. No stranger to darkness and strife, the Winston-Salem, NC native has repeatedly rebounded from illness and tragedy that could easily have brought down someone with a lesser spirit.

While filming in the Philippines in the early '70s, Grier contracted a rare and deadly tropical disease that nearly ended her life. It took her a year to recover. In 1988, Grier's career was put on indefinite hold when the star was diagnosed with cancer. Cancer also claimed the life of Grier's sister in 1990 and resulted in the suicide of the son of Pam's late sister. But through it all, Grier fought the illness with a vengeance, and the cancer went into remission.

With no formal training but plenty of ambition and talent, the former beauty queen (second-runner up in the Miss Universe Pageant) went on to star in over 60 films, many of which high-



Foxy, Foxy Brown! Pam Grier of *The L Word* is a show-business survivor.

lightens me. As far as the controversy is concerned, the way I see it is that at least the audience and various communities are thinking and feeling. So that's a good thing, don't you think?

My feeling about this emotionally highly charged issue is really quite simple. I think that as long as Church and State are separate, and both have clarity, we are on the right path. But we must have clarity that is comprehensive and, most importantly, democratic.

Why do you think *L Word* executive producer Ilene Chaiken chose you for the role of Kit Porter?

To be honest, I have no idea! I'm really too shy to ask her. I guess it must be a secret.

The sexuality of your character Kit seems ostensibly to be straight. Are we perhaps in for some surprises?

I guess you'll just have to wait and see. I'm pretty much sworn to secrecy on that one! But we won't disappoint!

Is your glass usually half-empty or half-full, Pam, and why?

Well, let's see, it depends on the size of the glass. Super-size, 14 oz., or 8 oz.? We like jelly jars in my house.

What is the major benefit the lesbian community has gleaned from the success of *The L Word*?

First, a chance for the lesbian community to have their say. Second, to create a comfort zone for those who cannot find the answers. It goes without saying that fear stems from ignorance. Hopefully, we can help to alleviate the fear and contribute to educating people about this very visible and viable community. ▼

**The L Word** airs on Showtime cable network on Sunday nights.

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**'I think that as long as Church and State are separate, and both have clarity, we are on the right path. But we must have clarity.'**

lighted strong black characters who won the hearts of feminists of all ethnicities. Among her most famous films are *Foxy Brown* ('74), *Scream, Blacula, Scream* ('73), *Coffy* ('73), *Roots - The Next Generations* ('79), *Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey* ('91), *Escape from LA* ('96), *Mars Attacks!* ('96), Quentin Tarantino's *Jackie Brown* ('97) and *Bones* ('01).

Among Grier's numerous distinctions are her nomination for a Golden Globe and NAACP Image Award for her performance in *Jackie Brown*. She was named as one of *Ebony* magazine's "100 Most Fascinating Women of the 20th Century," and she also holds the distinction of being the first African-American woman to appear on the cover of *Ms.* magazine (Aug '75).

David Guarino: What's the most exciting part of playing Kit Porter on *The L Word*? How do you feel about the controversy surrounding the show?

Pam Grier: Kit is extremely complex, and certainly in a lot of emotional pain. So the role chal-

You play the older sister to Jennifer Beals' character, Bette. What's it been like playing opposite her?

It's coming along quite well. And it's always great fun to watch another actor's progress.

There have been some criticisms that *The L Word* does not honestly represent the lesbian community. Critics say all of the characters on the show are "lipstick lesbians" who are perfectly coiffed, stylish, and well-to-do. They contend that there are no bull dykes, softball players, etc. represented at all. How do you respond?

Not all of the characters have great jobs or homes. We'll cover the spectrum of lifestyles and character variations as the show progresses. Bear in mind that each episode is not a miniseries. It will take some time to address all interests for the need to be represented.

How do you personally feel about amending the US Constitution to prohibit same-sex marriage, Pam?



# OUT & ABOUT

## Calendare by Mark Mardon



Aaron and DJ Bus Station John @ The Tubesteak Connection

## Got Tubesteak?

**M**y guide to the local club scene last Thursday night was **Aaron Dolson** (formerly "Abraxas"), the ultimate party boy turned yogi and consort to local DJs and artists. He took me to **Aunt Charlie's Lounge** (133 Turk St.) in the lovely Tenderloin, where on Thursday nights, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., the hot, up-and-coming **DJ Bus Station John** has created a blast from the past called **The Tubesteak Connection**, a scene with a '70s/'80s gay bar/bathhouse vibe so authentic, people were actually cruising!

Why is Aaron my guide? Because he's rad and hangs with the artist/clubber crowd. You'll find him hobnobbing with the folks at Glama-Rama, Bootie, Trannyshack and the like. He's always styled to the teeth, friendly and articulate. He knows everybody who's a somebody. It's been that way since he was a Texas teen. He grew up in Dallas-Fort Worth and escaped to Austin where he became a hard-core club kid hanging with the artist/DJ/music community. He lived in a club-kid collective run by Jesse Vasquez, and says the notorious NYC club diva Michael Alig would come and get drugs. "Michael was a brat," says Aaron. "A trainwreck." Aaron himself was a promoter who cleaned up his act in SF and went the yogi route after too much partying. He now suspects that the "powers-that-be want the gay community to kill themselves" on speed.

To show me an outstanding party that thrives not on speed, but on good old-fashioned booze, great music and cool people, Aaron took me to DJ Bus Station John's club at Aunt Charlie's. The joint is renowned for its nightly drag shows, though it's basically a tiny neighborhood bar. Normally it's lit by a profusion of Christmas lights, but for "Tubesteak" it's turned into a dark, shadowy, decadent den/din of "late '70s/early '80s gay bar and bathhouse sleeze n' cheeze, including Hi-NRG, Eurodisco, electrofunk, disco rarities and more." So rare are his tracks, Bus Station John declined to provide me a set list, not wanting to alert the competition to his recipe for success. Says he: "I came out in the early '80s and have all these musical hooks in my head from all these years. This music was huge in its day, the soundtrack for a whole generation. It was an amazingly creative window when electronic musicians concocted unique hooks without computer software. That was pre-MTV; today's dance music is formulaic and derivative, a rip-off."

He sure knows his stuff. The place was kickin'. I'm a veteran of early '80s gay bar and bathhouse cruising, and can recall the vibe well; Bus Station John gets it, perfectly. Some classic campy sleaze video played from a monitor, casting most of the light in the room early in the night; later, as the young, cruisy crowd poured in, the strobes came up. The place erupted in dance energy. Since I was imbibing friendly spirits and conversing with patrons, I didn't catch all the songs, but I sure caught the enthusiasm. One customer, the charming Linda Hughes, curator of nearby Red Ink Studios (1035 Market St.), told me *The Tubesteak Connection* was her favorite hangout; she loved the positive energy of the place. She pointed me to fellow customer Dino Dingo, a photographer currently taking images for *Members Only*, a penis book (before & after erections). He too loved the music and vibe, and probably the fact that "Tubesteak" draws some of the cutest studs you'll find anywhere. Mere pups. Just the way it was back when. Minus the poppers. ▼

DJ Bus Station John also spins Saturdays at "The Rod" (Underground SF, 424 Haight St.), and Sundays in March at "Wreck the turntables!" with Juanita MORE! at Café Flore.



Clifton Brown performs Caught with Alvin Ailey at Zellerbach Hall.

## Fri 18

### Alvin Ailey @ Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (AAADT) continues its annual Cal Performances residency with Program B: including *Shining Star* by David Parsons, set to music by Earth, Wind and Fire; and *Vespers* (1986) by music by Mikael Rouse and choreography by Ulysses Dove, restaged by Masazumi Chaya. Plus *Caught* (1982) and *The Winter in Lisbon* (1992). \$32, \$42, \$54. Tonight's 8pm show is the final performance of Program B. Program A plays Mar. 19 at 2pm, and Program C plays Mar. 17 & 19 at 8pm and Mar. 20 at 3pm. Zellerbach Hall, U.C. Berkeley, Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave. Tix: 510-642-9988; [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu)

### Radical Performance Fest @ SomArts Cultural Center

The Radical Performance Fest presents more than 20 conscious, visual and performing artists in a two-night benefit celebration of dance, poetry, performance art, hip-hop, a cappella singing, live music and more. Featuring Deep Dick Collective; CopperWimmin; Sistat in the Pit; Kreative; Colored Ink; Soulography; Dancers Without Borders. Emceed by Nafis, with guest appearances by Matt Gonzalez, Julia Butterfly and more. Food & beverages available by donation. \$10-\$25 sliding. Doors 7:30; show 8pm. SomArts, 934 Brannan. Info: 415-282-3104; [www.cultural-links.org/rpf.html](http://www.cultural-links.org/rpf.html)

### Miss Coco Peru Is Undaunted! @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center presents the NCTC and San Francisco debut of the one-and-only Miss Coco Peru in her newest cabaret show, *Miss Coco Peru Is Undaunted!* — an intelligent, theatrical, musical and witty drag autobiographic monologue with New York-style satire. \$30 Thu.-Sun.; \$25 Wed. Runs thru April 3. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm and Sun. at 2pm. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix: 415-861-8972; [www.nctcsf.org](http://www.nctcsf.org)

### Gorgeous, A Journey of the Body @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center's YouthAware Program again presents *Gorgeous: A Journey of the Body*, a one-woman play by Anna Furse, starring Natalie Sabel and directed by Gwen Lobe. It's a theatre-in-education program for teens about the struggles that young people have with body image and aspiring towards "ideal" beauty.

\$7 students; \$10 adults; \$5 per person for groups of 10 or more. Shows at 10am and 11:45am, Mon.-Thu., through Mar. 24. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. Tix: 415-861-4914, ext. 109; email [youthaware@nctcsf.org](mailto:youthaware@nctcsf.org)

### Men Connecting @ AHP Services Center

The AIDS Health Project workshop: "2005 Men Connecting: Dating: The 1st Date." does dating sometimes seem far from being simple or fun? Learn the basics of dating, including getting a first date, making it a success, and maintaining your health and well-being in the process. Fri., Mar. 18, 6:15-9:30pm. AHP Services Center, 1930 Market St. Space limited, pre-registration required: 415-476-6778, ext. 1.

### Mandonna @ GAMH

Mandonna, the all-male tribute to the Material Girl, play their "St. Patrick's Day Hangover Show" at the Great American Music Hall on March 18, the day after St. Patrick's day. Tom Jonesing opens. \$15 gen'l adm.; \$34.95 dinner ticket. Doors open 8pm; show at 9pm. All Ages Always (no babes in arms). Tix: 415-478-2277; [Virtuous.com](http://Virtuous.com) and [Tickets.com](http://Tickets.com). Info: [www.mandonna.com](http://www.mandonna.com)

### 'Arts Ravished' @ YBCA

Double feature screening of the films *Frightened Woman* and *Glimpse* as part of Yerba Buena Center's "Arts Ravished: Retro and Recent Kink" film series this March. \$8 regular/\$5 YBCA members, students, teachers, seniors. 7:30 pm *Frightened Woman* 9:30 pm *Glimpse*. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Screening Room, 701 Mission St. at 3rd. Tix/info: 415-978-ARTS (2787); [www.ybca.org](http://www.ybca.org)

### Tomorrow is Today @ Destiny Arts, Oakland

*Tomorrow is Today*, the new dance/theater/martial arts performance from the Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company. An entertaining and urgent plea from potent youth voices to begin creating a better tomorrow today. Written and choreographed by Company youth in collaboration with professional artists, the show tells of individuals stuck at an airport waiting for a delayed flight, a metaphor for the characters' "stuck-ness," providing an opportunity for self-reflection/dialogue on issues of race, religion, class, culture and youth leadership. \$12-\$20 sliding (\$6 youth under 18). 7:30pm Fri. & Sat., Mar. 18 & 19; 3pm Sun., Mar. 26. Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts (formerly the Alice Arts Center), 1428 Alica St., downtown Oakland. Tix: 510-597-1619; [www.destinyarts.org](http://www.destinyarts.org)

### Daniel Tousignant

#### @ Geras-Tousignant Gallery

Opening reception: "Recent Works by Daniel Tousignant," an evening of art, champagne and chocolate. This is the first one-man show for Tousignant in seven years. Born into a family saturated in the arts, and raised on a dairy farm in Minnesota, Tousignant started painting at the age of five. His works today have an antique quality, the antithesis of the contemporary painter. His landscapes are a memory of places visited, the result of an emotional response to the beauty around him. Champagne & chocolate reception on Fri., Mar. 18, 5-9pm and Sat., Mar. 29, 5-9pm. Open to the public; reservations required. 437 Pacific Ave. (btwn Sansome & Montgomery). Info/res: 415-986-1647; [www.gtfineart.com](http://www.gtfineart.com)

## Sat 19

### Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy Auction & Concert

Here is your chance to get great bargains and support public education. Don't miss Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy's Annual Silent Auction on Sat., March 19 from 12 noon-4pm at 4235 - 19th St. (at Collingwood). Find great bid items like hotel, spa, and restaurant certificates, yoga, pilates, voice lessons, wine, art, entertainment, and sport events like Giants games. Live music, including harmonica player James Loose Reed. Fresh baked goodies. All profits support the school's Outdoor Education Program. Info: 415-241-6276; [www.sfusd.edu/schwww/sch505/fundraisers](http://www.sfusd.edu/schwww/sch505/fundraisers)

### Anything Goes Chorus

#### @ Community Music Center

Director Ellen Robinson presents the Anything Goes Chorus in a lively, inspiring evening of harmony and song, tunes in a variety of styles including jazz ("Fly Me to the Moon"), pop ("Feelin' Good"), Broadway ("One Brick at a Time"), Latin ("Oye La Musica"), and songs of peace ("Silk Lagoon"). Sprinkled with a bit of choreography, colorful costumes, hilarious props and punctuated with audience sing-a-longs. Donations welcome. 8pm. CMC, 544 Capp St. Info: 415-647-6015; [www.sfmcc.org](http://www.sfmcc.org)

### One Big Lie @ EXIT Theatre

"All the truth in the world adds up to one big lie." — Bob Dylan. Crowded Fire Theater Company and the Playwrights Foundation present the World Premiere production of New York playwright Liz Duffy Adams' *One Big Lie*, a musical fable that pits gods against mortals in a search for ultimate truth that takes us from the ancient world to a future that seems all too familiar. Lie follows two sisters Febe and a brother whose dilemmas repeat in each age as they struggle to discover who's really holding the cards. It's a hilarious romp that abruptly turns serious as the heroes are forced to stand trial for "anti-patriotic acts." \$25 Opening Gala (Mar. 19); \$15-\$20 Thu., Fri. & Sat., Mar. 24-Apr. 16. Pay-what-you-can preview Mar. 18, and Mon., Apr. 11. 8pm. EXIT Theatre, 156 Eddy St. Tix/info: 415-753-5995; [www.crowded-fire.org](http://www.crowded-fire.org)

### Fairy Butch Strip Contest @ 12 Galaxies

In Bed With Fairy Butch: The First Annual Amateur Strip Contest! For Women, Transfolks & Their Pals. Amateur strippers take over the In Bed With Fairy Butch to compete for fame and prizes! A jury of illustrious stripping professionals and other SF notables will determine the winners! All colors, styles, single or coupled, butch, femme, andro and none of the above sorts of dykes and transies and their pals are welcome. The club will also feature our fabulous Tingle & Mingle Game! After the show, enjoy an old school dance party with hip-hop, disco, 80's, R & B, sung by DJ Atomic Pop! Come at 8pm to register for free mini speed dating, (w/fulf cover). \$10-\$15 sliding (includes a sex toy extravaganza raffle ticket). Doors open 8pm; Show at 10pm. 12 Galaxies, 2565 Mission St. at 22nd St. Info: 415-FEY-8000; [www.fairybutch.com](http://www.fairybutch.com)

### Tuxedomoon @ Café DuNord

KFJC Presents the legendary art-rock band Tuxedomoon, fresh out with a new album, *Cabin in the Sky*. Plus: Tussle and DJ Steve E. Nicks. Tuxedomoon was formed in SF in 1977 by Blaine L. Reiningger and Steven Brown, working out of the electronic music lab of SF City College. They were joined shortly after by Peter Principle. In 1979 Tuxedomoon recorded their now classic album *Half Mute*. The group was semi-officially dissolved in 1989. The new album *Cabin in the Sky* is the first studio recording by the band's reunited original line-up. It finds Tuxedomoon in absolute top form, as romantic, rebellious and boundlessly imaginative as they ever were. \$12 at door. Show at 9:30pm. 21 + w/ID. 2170 Market St. Info: [www.cafedunord.com](http://www.cafedunord.com)

## Sun 20

### SF Hiking Club

#### @ Pine Mtn. & Carson Falls

This outing will take hikers up Pine Mountain for unimpeded views of the Mt. Tam watershed and then down into the Little





Smash-Up Derby, the world's only mash-up rock band, plays Thursday Nite Live at the SF Eagle. See Thursday.

Carson Creek canyon with its beautiful rocky falls. It's a house of prayer for all people. A home for queer spirituality," kicks off Holy Week 2005 with Palm Sunday observances at 9am, 11am, & 7pm. Commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with the festive waving of palm branches. MCC-SF serves an open communion; you do not need to be a member of the MCC community, any synagogue, mosque or sangha to share in God's gifts from God's Table. Morning Worship: "Queer Catechism - Preparing for Death." 11am service: "A Procession of Children & Families," with special music for Palm Sunday by Aaron Priskorn, Trumpet. A Dedication of "MCC Children's Place" takes place after the 11am service. Children are invited to join the party in Room 108. Every child will have the opportunity to decorate a quilt square for the Children's Place memory quilt, which will be revealed on Easter morning. Evening Worship: "Skipping Towards Gomorrah - Pride." Come hear about a new version of pride and be "righteously proud" as Rev. Dr. G. Penny Nixon, Rev. Karen Foster and friends join together in commissioning Rev. Terri Eichelberger and the new MCC congregation being planted in the Peninsula. Special "Hosanna" (7pm only) Choral Anthem with words & music by Kirk Franklin, featuring Rap Artist, Julie F. Potter. 150 Eureka St. Info: 863-4434; [www.mccsf.org](http://www.mccsf.org)

#### Palm Sunday @ MCC-SF

MCC San Francisco, "A house of prayer for all people. A home for queer spirituality," kicks off Holy Week 2005 with Palm Sunday observances at 9am, 11am, & 7pm. Commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with the festive waving of palm branches. MCC-SF serves an open communion; you do not need to be a member of the MCC community, any synagogue, mosque or sangha to share in God's gifts from God's Table. Morning Worship: "Queer Catechism - Preparing for Death." 11am service: "A Procession of Children & Families," with special music for Palm Sunday by Aaron Priskorn, Trumpet. A Dedication of "MCC Children's Place" takes place after the 11am service. Children are invited to join the party in Room 108. Every child will have the opportunity to decorate a quilt square for the Children's Place memory quilt, which will be revealed on Easter morning. Evening Worship: "Skipping Towards Gomorrah - Pride." Come hear about a new version of pride and be "righteously proud" as Rev. Dr. G. Penny Nixon, Rev. Karen Foster and friends join together in commissioning Rev. Terri Eichelberger and the new MCC congregation being planted in the Peninsula. Special "Hosanna" (7pm only) Choral Anthem with words & music by Kirk Franklin, featuring Rap Artist, Julie F. Potter. 150 Eureka St. Info: 863-4434; [www.mccsf.org](http://www.mccsf.org)

#### Nature's Pharmacy @ SF Conservatory of Flowers

Be immersed in the sights, sounds and scents of four culturally themed market places as the new exhibition, *Nature's Pharmacy: The Healing Power of Plants*, takes visitors on a virtual journey to Africa, Asia, South and North America to learn about medicinal plants, their many uses and the issues that surround them. \$5 gen'l; \$3 seniors, students, youth 12-17. 9am-4:30pm Tue-Sun. Conservatory of Flowers, Golden Gate Park. Info: 415-666-7001; [www.conservatoryofflowers.org](http://www.conservatoryofflowers.org)

#### Green Beat @ Hotel Utah

The Green Beat Acoustic Songwriter Showcase provides a rare opportunity to see local and national singer/songwriters break from their full band appearances and perform unplugged. Tonight's showcase will feature rising star Garrin Benfield, along with Gary Rosenberg, Duff Fergusson, and Justice. In addition to a great setting for live music, The Hotel Utah Saloon offers a full dinner menu and bar. Limited-edition 14-song sampler CD available "by donation" to the first 30 ticket buyers. \$7 at door. Sun., Mar. 20 at 7pm, 500 4th Street at Bryant; Advance 2-for-1 tix at [www.acousticsongwriters.com](http://www.acousticsongwriters.com)



Daniel Tousignant unveils his uniquely antique landscapes of memories at the Geras-Tousignant Gallery. See Friday.

## Mon 21

### One Voice—Gospel Artists Respond to AIDS @ Herbst Theatre

Yvette Flunder, Edwin Hawkins, Tremaine Hawkins, Terrance Kelly, Shirley Miller, Allowyn Price, S.P.I.R.I.T., and Rusty Watson are the internationally known, California-born gospel artists who will perform at the annual *One Voice—Gospel Artists Respond to AIDS* concert at the Herbst Theatre. The concert will benefit the Yvette A. Flunder Foundation, which supports orphanages in Uganda, Ghana, Zimbabwe and South Africa as well as numerous HIV-AIDS education, housing and social service programs in the Bay Area. Rev. Dr. Yvette Flunder is Senior Pastor, City of Refuge United Church of Christ, Presiding Bishop, Refuge Ministries/Fellowship 2000 Rev. General Seating \$30. VIP Tickets \$125. VIP Reception from 6pm w/ wine and Southern style buffet dinner. One night only: Mon., Mar. 21, 7pm, at Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave. Tix: City Box Office, 415-392-4400; [www.cityboxoffice.com](http://www.cityboxoffice.com)

### Miss Gay Primavera 2005 @ Esta Noche

Producciones Esta Noche presenta: *Miss Gay Primavera 2005* — presentación y talento, leading up to the *Gran Final* on March 30, with a 1st prize of \$500. 10:30pm. Esta Noche, 3079 16th St. Info: 415-861-5757.

### Eating for Immune Enhancement @ The Center

The Immune Enhancement Project (IEP) presents a free workshop: "Eating for Immune Enhancement, Part 2." The workshop will help you learn how to cook and eat to attune your body to the upcoming Spring season. It will also give you techniques to strengthen and cleanse your system. Speaker: Nishanga Bliss, L.Ac. & Nutritionist. Mon., Mar. 21 from 3-5pm at the SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St.

## Tue 22

### OUT Spoken V

#### @ Comcast Ch. 11

OUT Spoken V, a video magazine for the LGBT community, hosted by Janine Shiota and Tim Gaskin. Featuring Heklin's backstage interview with the Scissor Sisters, plus segments on Jose Sarria, Absolute Express 1, the widow Norton, founder of The Imperial Court; openly-gay Jose Cisneros, SF City Treasurer; butch lesbian Skyler Cooper who plays Shakespeare's Othello; socialites/fundraisers China Silk and Donna Sacht; SF lesbian cab driver Ann Bailey; and gay authority/yoga instructor Darrin Main. Watch Comcast Ch. 11 on Mar. 22 at 6:30pm; Encore presentations on Wed.,

Mar. 23 at 8:30pm; Sat., Mar. 26 at 7pm; and Sun., Mar. 27 at 8pm. Info: [www.out-spoken.com](http://www.out-spoken.com)

### Crickett Bardot @ Trannyshack

Join Crickett Bardot as she takes you on an acid-drenched carpet ride through the bowels of exotic beyond. \$7 cover. 9pm-2am (show at midnight). The Stud, 9th & Harrison. Info: [www.heklina.com](http://www.heklina.com)

## Wed 23

### Public Meeting in the Castro

Public meeting about a "Commercial Benefit District" (similar to the Business Improvement District in Union Square) in the Castro. Local businesses would pay into a fund to pay for services such as sidewalk cleaning, security, etc. Meets Wed., Mar. 23, 5 pm, at 501 Castro St. (Bank of America meeting room).

### JenRO/Conscious Daughters @ El Toro Nightclub

Spoken Word and Hip Hop Showcase in the Portola, featuring the Bay Area's finest spoken word and hip-hop artists, including Pride Main Stage sensation JenRO (*The Revelation*, La Movida Records), Conscious Daughters, Lady Tragik, Mo' Betta and more. Located at 2470 San Bruno Ave. Doors open 7pm. Free b4 8pm; \$7 after. \$5 w/student ID.

## Thu 24

### Smash-Up Derby @ Eagle Tavern

Smash-Up Derby rocks "Thursday Nite Live" like a totally kick-ass indie cover band — except the singers think they're in a pop band. So while the band is cranking out renditions of songs by Nirvana, Franz Ferdinand, the Sex Pistols, or Black Sabbath, singers Adrian Roberts (the BAR's Art Director and resident music diva) and Trixie Carr are belting out Madonna, Michael Jackson, Christina Aguilera, or Pink — at the same time. On paper, it sounds like a train wreck, but in actuality, it melds beautifully. With the band's skillful execution, these "hybrid songs" sound like they were always meant to be together. You'll never hear the originals the same way again. Playing with the Mandarins and the Girlfriend Experience. \$5 cover. 9pm, 12th & Harrison. Info: [www.smashupderby.com](http://www.smashupderby.com)

### Lizz Roman & Dancers' CellGround @ CellSpace

Lizz Roman & Dancers present *CellGround*, a site-specific installation designed for the architecture of CellSpace. Featuring nine dancers and a live soundtrack by Alex Kelly (cello) and Clyde Sheets (DJ). Conceived and directed by Lizz Roman. The cavernous warehouse/theater becomes a multi-tiered playground as dancers utilize the rafters, beams, ramps, banisters, stairs, roof, walls, doorways, counters and ladders to explore the raw elements of the building's architecture. The first half of *CellGround* is viewed from the main floor; the second half invites the audience upstairs while the performers transition downstairs to dance in unexpected places. \$20 gen'l adm. 8pm Thu.-Sat., March 24-26. CellSpace, 2050 Bryant St. at 19th St. Tix: 415-269-1283.

### Left Coast Chamber Ensemble @ Mill Valley

The Left Coast Chamber Ensemble presents in the *Spotlight: The Flute*, featuring the premiere of *FLING*, a work for flute and strings by Nathaniel Stookey. In addition, two infrequently heard gems for flute and string quartet: Alberto Ginestera's *Quintet for Flute and Strings*, and Amy Beach's *Quintet for Flute and Strings*. By popular demand, LCCE once again presents a group of Renaissance songs, including works by John Dowland. Tonight's program takes place at 8pm in downtown Mill Valley at 142 Throckmorton Theatre; it repeats March 7 at 8pm in San Francisco at the Green Room. \$20 gen'l; \$15 student/senior. Mill Valley tix: 415-383-9600; [www.142ThrockmortonTheatre.com](http://www.142ThrockmortonTheatre.com)

**MONDAY NIGHT**  
\$2.00 WELL DRINKS

**THURSDAY NIGHT**  
is LATIN NIGHT! \*

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\*THURSDAY NIGHT DANCE TO HOT LATIN MUSIC VIDEOS. CORONA \$2.50 MARGARITAS \$4.00

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18th STREET NEAR CASTRO / DANCING EVERY NIGHT / EVERYONE WELCOME / MUST BE 21+ 18

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# Men who made 'ideal females'

'Painted Men: Chinese Opera Backstage' at SFPALM

by Stephanie von Buchau

At some time or another, every major society has had a ban on female singers, actors and/or dancers. During these periods, young men, often teenaged boys, impersonated female characters in plays, dances and operas. In the West, we have the hideous yet mellifluous example of the castrati, young boys castrated before their voices broke so that a pure adolescent sound was preserved. Fortunately, the last Western castrato died in 1922.

In Asian countries, where change is often agonizingly slow, the tradition of female impersonation still exists in the Kabuki and Chinese opera. Asian actors are trained from early youth, their calling is honored (and often well-paid), and no major mutilations are required for their art (except for bound feet; see below). This central fact is a theme of *Painted Men: Chinese Opera Backstage*, a major exhibit of photographs, costumes and artifacts from the branch of Cantonese Opera that flourished in San Francisco, now showing at the Performing Arts Library and Museum (PALM) on



A Chinese Opera 'actress' applying theatrical make-up backstage.



Cantonese Opera performer Wong Chew Moo as a general in full regalia.

the fourth floor of the War Memorial Veteran's Bldg., through June 4.

Since Asians — Confucians, Buddhists, Taoists, Shintoists — tend to look at sexual behavior in a less judgmental manner than many Western cultures, the fact that these beautiful stage creatures are not what they seem is part of the popularity of the artform, but also not as big a deal as it is in the West. Whether female impersonators are gay is something that titillates (or concerns) the Western viewer more than it does the Asian theatergoer.

Many Kabuki *onnagata* are married and have children and grandchildren, which does not preclude them being gay, it just means that basically nobody cares. Yet in the early 1900s, after the Cantonese Opera was established in San Francisco as both a tourist attraction and a meeting place for lonely Chinese men who were working in the city but sending all their earnings back to their families in China, there was a scandal over a late Ch'ing dynasty Cantonese Opera actor named Tzu-hou-hai.

His photo is not terribly prepossessing — though most late 19th-century/early 20th-century portrait photography is stiff and uncomfortable — but he is acknowledged as the first known Chinese gay male actor in SF. The staff of PALM didn't know much about the actual circumstances, but apparently his outing caused a controversy within the Tongs and the Six-Companies Organization. They were bankrolling the city's Cantonese Opera, and probably also controlling the gambling venues and brothels that were part

of the single Chinese male's existence. Eventually, Tzu-hou-hai was deported and replaced by a (supposedly straight) comedian.

## Banned opera

The other notable female impersonator appearing in this exhibit is Mei Lan-fang, a Peking Opera star who toured America in the '30s. Yet the Peking (now Beijing) Opera, while easily the most famous Chinese company in the world, did not have nearly the influence in the West as the Cantonese Opera. This style had flourished in China's Kwangtung and Kwangsi provinces until 1854, when an actor named Li Wen-mao gathered an army of actors to rebel against the government in support of the Taiping Rebellion (1851-64). When the rebellion was squelched, Cantonese Opera was considered subversive and banned. In the meantime, a troupe of 123 Cantonese Opera actors, singers, dancers and musicians traveled to the US in 1852.

The female impersonators were all young male teens, well-versed in producing the "ideal female" on stage. American audiences were entranced, calling them "the most beautiful and lovely young females in SF."

Cantonese Opera has survived until the present day, traditionally unaltered, though it was modernized after WW II. Representing "family values" (diligence, thrift, hard work, justice, etc.), the Opera combined fantasy entertainment with political stances. If it weren't for the shrill, nasal, high-pitched sound of Chinese music in general and singing in particular, this splendid artform could easily have been a predominant one in SF. The gymnastics, martial arts (at one point the swordfights were real) and richly exotic costumes recommend Cantonese Opera to anyone who delights in overt theatricality.

Among the standouts in this exhibit are gorgeously embroidered robes for emperors — a huge drag-

on created of orange bugle beads will thrill anyone passionate about costumes and glitter — generals and courtesans. Footwear demonstrates that even the young men sometimes had bound feet to create the traditional "lily walk." Extravagant headdresses are to die for. Helmets, armor, fans, masks all activate the acquisitive nature of this art collector. There is even a dressing room scene, with a mannequin seated before a mirror, about to apply his makeup, with all his trunks and accoutrements around him.

Less glamorous but still fascinating are SF photographs of artists, theaters and actual performances. There are tickets, cigarette cards, wigs and beards, paintings, posters, woodblock prints, puppets. The entire show is contained in two rooms, easy to view in under an hour and well worth the time. Admission is free. ▼

Info: 255-4800, [sfpalm.org](http://sfpalm.org)

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## Worldly ensembles

by Jason Victor Serinus

*The Classical Underground*  
Imani Winds (Koch)

A hearty welcome to this debut album from the five young African-American musicians of Imani Winds. These talented wind players (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and French

horn) thrive on the unusual, gravitating toward music that fuses European, African and American traditions. That their delightful repertoire is played with refreshing freedom and sensuality is reason aplenty to hear this disc.

It begins with a delicious performance of Astor Piazzolla's "Liber Tango" arranged by the only male in the quintet, French horn player Jeff Scott. The performance, graced by Rolando Morales Matos' percussion, is free, wild, insinuating, and Latin to the core. Atmosphere is the name of the game on clarinetist Paquito D'Rivera's seven-movement *Aires Tropicales*. D'Rivera, who's a joy to watch in person, clearly loves life; his spirit is positively infectious. Especially compelling is Jeff Scott's arrangement of *Aires Tropicales*' final, extended "Afro" movement, featuring guest René Marie's enticing vocals and some unexpected, jungle-like sounds from the winds.

Scott also offers his own "Homage to Duke," which pays tribute to Ellington's more sacred offerings. Flutist Valerie Coleman contributes a three-movement Concerto for Wind Quintet whose "Vocalise" is filled with interesting harmonies, and final "Danza" is a lively affair. Lalo Schiffrin's "La Nouvelle Orleans" presents a fantastic opportunity for the group to explore ever-changing rhythms,



wild leaps, and a serpentine melody that morphs into bluesy chords before finally segueing into a unique take New Orleans jazz. Great stuff.

*Homenaje a Revueltas*  
Ebony Band Amsterdam  
(Channel Classics)

In the astounding music of Mexican composer Silvestre Revueltas (1899-1940), the joy and exuberance of Mexican life and its virtually phantasmagoric shadow side of superstition, Catholic repression, and suffering go hand in hand.

Revueltas was a true original. A violin player from age eight, he matured to tour the southern United States and Mexico as a violin soloist and conductor in the 1920s. Coming to the attention of composer Carlos Chavez, he was summoned to work with the Orquesta Sinfónica de México to

page 45 ►

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## BARS

# Low-key in Walnut Creek

Welcome to the Club 1220, Contra Costa Co.'s oldest gay bar

by Mike Sher and Mark des Jardins

There are no bright lights outside the Club 1220, and no neon signs. No windows open to the world, as at the Twin Peaks Tavern on Castro Street, just a small sign with the number 1220, like the bar with no name in Sausalito. The front door, surrounded by flagstones, has a solid look. It's on a quiet street a few blocks away from the center of town, and around the corner from a 7-11. But the Club 1220 at 1220 Pine Street in Walnut Creek is Contra Costa's oldest gay and lesbian bar, and the longest owned under the same proprietorship in the East Bay.

Brothers Jon and Steve Crovo, the owners of 1220, became owners in a slightly unusual way. They were running a gas station and liquor store on Clayton Road in Walnut Creek, and began managing a small bar nearby. The owner sold the bar, bringing their management to an end, but they liked the work and wanted to stay in the business. In 1976, after being turned down in Concord and elsewhere, they found a location in Walnut Creek and looked to their parents for financing. This took courage, since their dad was a former Marine, and the family devout Catholics. After some consideration, their parents agreed. The brothers sought advice and counsel from Catholic priests in their diocese. Then, after remodeling and restoration, they were on their way.

Walk in, and you'll see what the Crovo brothers achieved. The bar has become a friendly and safe gathering place for gays and lesbians who don't want the commute to the city. Past the front door on the left, a dance floor and DJ booth stand. On the right, there's the bar itself, with barstools and a small mirror/floral display behind it. A popcorn machine is next to the bar, and a pool table is ready for action in the back. A small outdoor deck beyond allows smokers a tranquil spot for their pastime.

The only night the bar closed was when the Dan White verdict came in on the Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone assassinations. While rioting took place in San Francisco by the gay community that night, threats were being phoned into Club 1220. Both the bar and the police wanted to avoid any trouble in Walnut Creek.

There's another Harvey Milk connection at the bar. After a debate with John Briggs in Walnut Creek, Harvey dropped by the bar to give a speech. He noticed that the gay guys were sitting on one side of the club, and the lesbians were on the other, a sign of the growing pains of the time. The speech was inspiring and well-remembered.

There's been controversy at the bar over the years. The club hired a lesbian bartender. Her name was Shirley Coleman. At first, there was anger from the men, but she became the club's first manager. Later, a straight female bartender aroused controversy, too, but she was attractive enough

to gain lesbian attention, and that turned out fine.

Decades ago, there were separate bars for gays and lesbians. The turning point seems to be the start of the AIDS epidemic. With it came an outpouring of sympathy, support, and fundraising from the lesbian community. "I think it was the start of our community coming together," says Jon.

## Country cookin'

The 1220 offers a variety of events to appeal to various elements of the community.

Wednesday is Karaoke Night, with TV monitors scattered about the bar viewing the performances. Every Thursday is Latino Night. Friday draws a younger crowd with hip hop and house music. They do have a \$5 cover on Friday and Saturday nights. Every other Saturday is



Friday nights draw a younger crowd, with hip hop and house music.

Country & Western night. Interestingly, notes Jon, this country crowd is the source of the club's

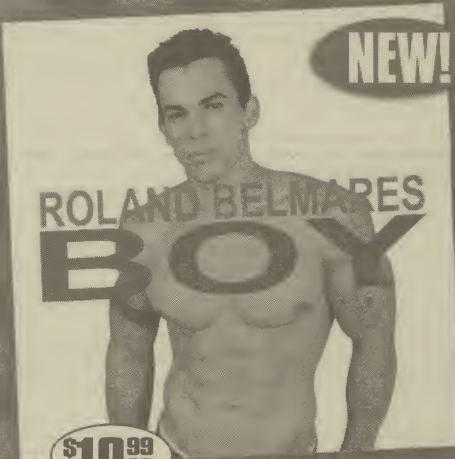
major food events, at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Every three months, there's Club

Nasty for the leather crowd. There are drag shows a few times a month, with former Finocchio stars on the bill. People not only come from the city for this, but from Sacramento and the Valley.

Happy Hour is Monday to Friday, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. No minors are ever allowed, and they have no afterhour operations, so the Walnut Creek PD considers the 1220 to be a model liquor-business operation. On occasion, there have been problems with local punks who don't like gays, but the police have backed the bar every time. Over the years, a number of bars and clubs in the East Bay have come and gone: Just Rewards, Club 21 and Blue, to name a few. But Club 1220 maintains itself still as a safe, friendly suburban space for gay men and lesbians alike. ▼

Club 1220, 1220 Pine St., Walnut Creek. Open 4 p.m. - 2 a.m. (925) 938-4550


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# Spotlight on L.A.

by Mister Marcus

The Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2005 contest will be taking place this weekend in my old hometown, when Marc Watrel will step aside for a successor out of nine men qualifying for the title. Here are a few highlights scheduled for the weekend:

First of all, the host hotel is the Wilshire Grand Los Angeles at 930 Wilshire Blvd. (close to downtown), and the rates range from \$119 (for a standard room) to \$129 for a Deluxe room, and \$149 for an Executive Floor Room. You can reserve by calling 1-888-773-2888.

Shuttle buses will be provided to all venue events, and the weekend has the Southland Honors Dinner and Honor Awards Ceremony, and the Mr. L.A. Leather Contest, with a post-contest victory dance, both at the El Rey Theater. Plus there's a vendor fair, a street fair in Silverlake on Sunday, and LAL educational seminars all day Saturday.

A large contingent from San Francisco will make the trek to the Southland, and I'll be there, too, so you can expect to know the results here next week. Thanks to Marc Watrel for a great year with the title.

More information on the contest is obtainable from the web; click on [www.mrlaleather.com](http://www.mrlaleather.com)

## Bonanza for Breast Cancer Emergency Fund

Another record crowd materialized at the ARC in San Francisco last Saturday night, March 12 as the faithful flocked to support the 5th annual Breast Cancer Emergency Fund Dinner produced by Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt and her faithful crew of volunteers. Even Mama's own blood family were on hand to hear accolade upon accolade heaped on "The Mama" for her fundraising efforts. Queen Cougar, Carolyn Kelly and Jorge Caste provided musical entertainment. Superb!

California Assemblyman Mark Leno was on hand with a handful of "official" commendatory docu-



The world's greatest "sound man," Randy Shiller, was one of several recipients of commendations from California Assembly member Mark Leno via Mama Reinhardt. Mr. Shiller earned the honor for his voluntary contributions to the annual BCEF Dinners.

ments from the California Assembly for various people whose good works with this project were officially appreciated and endorsed by California's Assembly. Those honored included Mark Paladini, Ray Tilton, Dirk Burns, Kay Filgo, Dan Bernal, Glennon Sutter, Randy Schiller and Peter Fiske. Bravo!

It was a splendid evening, with everyone was dressed to the nines. There leather people galore, Imperial Family members and the grassroots supporters of a very worthy cause.

No one was actually counting heads, but some very conspicuous absences were noted — and dishd to no end. It is both disheartening and notable how many people have two faces in our little family.

The farthest travel award was given to Sean Cribbin, Mr. Toronto to Leather 2005, who made the trek to our turf by way of a benefit for the BCEF Dinner in a joint fundraiser held the night before with Mr. SF Leather Dodger Allen at Daddy's Bar. Declaring that he's "single" again, former Mr. SF Leather Gary Virginia was gussied up in a notable "GQ" outfit that

had heads turning.

A splendid array of silent auction items was on display and satellite cocktail bars were available for the thirsty ones and diners had a great choice of gourmet quality entrees. Kudos once again to Mama and her many volunteers who made it a smashing evening of success and pride to benefit the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund. And thanks to all of you who supported this worthwhile cause.

## Int'l Clitoris Day

A lot of women in our community will join forces to celebrate International Clitoris Day this Saturday, March 19. A big celebration/show will take place at the Brava Theater for Women in the Arts at 2781 - 24th St (at York) at 2000, with a stunning show scheduled with notable female performers. For info, go to the web at [www.celebrateclitoris.com](http://www.celebrateclitoris.com).

## E. Nixon/Boy Beetle win Int'l Leather Sir/boy

The march toward the finals of the International Leather Sir/boy titles being held in St. Petersburg, Florida in October is in progress. Last weekend in Baltimore, the

next page ►

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Weekend, March 17-20

Los Angeles grabs the spotlight this weekend with their Mr. L.A. Contest with myriad of events culminating in a street fair in the Silverlake area on Sunday.

### Thursday, March 17

Another round in the Bare Chest Calendar season at the Powerhouse tonight around 2200. Who will make the grade? Does the AEF appreciate the color ads in various magazines that the Powerhouse is paying for? Hmmmm?

### Saturday, March 19

International Clitoris Day around the world, with a big celebration here in San Francisco. More info at: [www.celebrateclitoris.com](http://www.celebrateclitoris.com)

SF Dyke Girl Hayden is throwing a "step-aside" beer/soda bust at the Eagle Tavern today from 1500 to 1900 with Lady Hilary and Evil Mommy Tina MC'ing. Hayden is going to compete at ABW so help her with the travel fund.

### Sunday, March 20

Ms. New Jersey Leather Amanda hosts a military ball at the Paradise in Asbury Park, NJ to benefit New Jersey Chapter of AVET (American Veterans for Equal Rights). \$20 in advance or \$25 @ door. Need info: [msnjlleather2005@yahoo.com](mailto:msnjlleather2005@yahoo.com).

### Wednesday, March 23

Leather Buddies at 933 Harrison. No cologne! No white sneakers. Only leather, latex, uniforms admitted. Call 777-HEAD.

### Weekend, March 24-28

Mr. Leather Germany 2005 contest in Berlin this Easter weekend. For more information, surf to: [www.blf.de](http://www.blf.de).

### Friday, March 25

Leather & Uniform Night at Renegades Bar in San Jose from 2100 to 0100 next day. It's called "Good Friday Gone Bad". Demos, bootblacks, Jell-O shots. For more info: [sarmento@earthlink.net](mailto:sarmento@earthlink.net).

### Saturday, March 26

Voting begins today for the 2005 Golden Dildoe Awards. Ballots are \$1 each. Vote early and often. The Awards take place on April 19 at the Eagle.

The 15 Association monthly play party at that secret location. For invite, call 673-0452.

The SF Leather Contingent in the Pride Parade in June meets at the Center (1800 Market St.) in Room 300 at 1400 hours. Nominations for male and female leather grand marshals will be accepted. Call: 415-722-3128 if you need more information.



## LEATHER SCENE



The Men of Discipline, San Francisco, celebrated their sixth anniversary with a *Back in Black* party at Daddy's.

## Discipline matters

Meet the Men of Discipline, SF

by Victor Torres

Once shrouded in a veil of mystery, the Men of Discipline, San Francisco, are now coming out of the playrooms and secret meeting halls to attract new members and associates. The chapter hopes to bridge the gap for the younger players in the community who are looking for a safe place to explore BDSM among peers. According to their official Recruit Manual, "The Men of Discipline is an alternative Leather and Uniform Fraternity for gay men who are serious about BDSM, the leather lifestyle, and who practice discipline in their daily lives." But that is just one of the many facets of the Men of Discipline.

The Men of Discipline [MOD] as a concept started in 1995 in New York City as a military-style, SM fraternity that combined both the Old Guard and the New Guard of the leather scene. With the lack of a template in leather-club creation and with leadership disagreements, the NY group disbanded in '97. Still, the seed was planted and destined to grow. The original members created the unique, leather-pride-colored insignia, and the black military uniform you see today. All the club needed was more structure and willing participants to join in its creation.

In '98, MOD re-emerged in Washington, DC, creating much of the framework that still stands today. Uniform styling based on the US military, finalized by-laws, a protocol manual, the Recruit Manual and the motto all came into being through the efforts of MOD DC. In '99, the Men of Discipline, San Francisco, was created. Later that year, a chapter in Maryland formed, but soon disbanded in 2000.

The SF chapter of MOD began with three members from MOD DC and MOD NY, with the primary objective of recruiting more members to create a fully functioning leather club. Slowly, carefully, the group grew in membership, and became a strong fraternity. Now in its seventh year, MOD SF has eight active members, six fraternal members, 10 associates and three new recruits.

They have held three intensive BDSM, military-themed Boot Camp weekends, a pre-Dore Alley play party and a pre-Folsom Street Fair play party. This year, the fraternity hopes to hold two more play parties, another Boot Camp (in Washington, DC, with MOD DC), assorted bar nights and attendance at various leather events.

### Full house

MOD celebrated their sixth anniversary and with a successful *Back in Black* party held at Daddy's Bar a few weekends back. The party, touted as an unfundraiser, was all about getting the leather crowd back into the bar to have some old-fashioned fun and friskiness. The bar was full from front door to back door. Members served dollar Jell-O shots and discounted Jägermeister shots, so the crowd was kept properly lubricated and ready for action. Free door prizes were supplied by Titan Media, Mr. S Leather, Tower Records and friends of the MOD. There were also four contestants in the jock-strap and boots contest, with the winner walking away with a five-

disk DVD player. An impromptu performance by Mr. Dore Alley 2004 Tom Orr, and the DJ magic of Jeff Chandler kept the packed crowd moving to an eclectic beat.

MOD SF is looking for physically fit men who have a serious interest in BDSM, and practice discipline both in play and in real life. Skill level is unimportant, because the group is more than happy to teach the basics to the inexperienced, and eager to learn from the experts in the community. The club is also a fraternity, so it's important that all the members feel comfortable with extending an invitation to someone who will eventually be a member. If you happen to catch the group out at a local leather bar, you can instantly see the bond of friendship and respect shared among its members. The Men of Discipline is a strong core of like-minded individuals who just want to have fun participating in the larger leather community. ▼

Victor Torres is a member of Men of Discipline SF. Info: [www.menofdiscipline.com](http://www.menofdiscipline.com).

### Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Maryland Leather Sir/boy contest was held and although details are sketchy, the Leather Sir is Emanuel Nixon and the boy winner is Boy Beetle. They advance to compete for the Mid-Atlantic Leather Sir/boy competition titles later this year.

At my deadline, no results were received from the Mr. San Diego Leather contest held this past weekend. The winner will not compete at IML until May 2006.

### Mr. San Francisco Leather 2005

The contest will be held on Saturday afternoon, September 24 and yours truly will be producing it with a dynamic group of talented volunteers who refuse to let the tradition die. Contrary to rumors spreading around the community, I, Mr. Marcus Hernandez, do not own the title, which is still controlled by a committee including Audrey Joseph. Progress is being made toward making the contest

a 501(c) (3) nonprofit entity. The title belongs to the leather community of San Francisco, not to me, personally.

Watch for ads coming your way; it is expected that the usual bars and businesses will be sponsoring a contestant.

Stay healthy, happy, and supportive of worthy charities, individuals and events. See you next week with the results of the Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2005 contest. ▼

### Clarification

The March 10 Leather Column, "Spirit of Saint Louis," which contained an item on the Mr. San Francisco Leather contest under the heading "Dances with dish," should have contained a disclosure that the author of the column, Bay Area Reporter leather columnist Marcus Hernandez, aka Mister Marcus, is now the sole producer of the Mr. San Francisco Leather contest.

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# Liza in the Big Apple

## 'New York, New York' out on DVD

by Tavo Amador

The success of *Cabaret* ('72) suggested that the Hollywood musical had been rescued from ossification by director/choreographer Bob Fosse, composer/lyricists Kandler and Ebb, and Liza Minnelli. She eclipsed Julie Andrews and Barbra Streisand because *Cabaret* made their musicals seem dated. Just 26, Minnelli won an Oscar to go with her Tony and Emmy awards. Many thought Minnelli had inherited Judy Garland's unique hold on audiences and would match her mother's acclaim, while avoiding her tragedies. Unfortunately, they were wrong on all counts.

Minnelli's next two movies, *Lucky Lady* ('75) and *A Matter of Time* ('76), the latter directed by her father, Vincente Minnelli, were critical and popular flops. She re-

sponded by putting her cinematic future in the hands of Martin Scorsese, who would direct *New York, New York* ('77), a saga of a singer/actress set in the late '40s and early '50s, featuring Big Band music and new songs by Kandler and Ebb. It seemed like the ideal vehicle to re-establish her while resuscitating the genre. Sadly, it failed, killing her screen stardom. Its recent release in DVD allows for a reappraisal.

Singer Francine Evans (Minnelli) and saxophonist Jimmy Doyle (Robert De Niro) meet in '45 during a huge New York City celebration marking the Japanese surrender ending World War II. They fall in love while touring with a small-time band. They marry, but pregnancy forces her to leave the band just as she's on the verge of a major breakthrough.

Jimmy resents her achievements and the unborn baby, but doesn't stop her from returning to Manhattan to give birth. He has an affair with her untalented replacement (the campy Mary Kay Place), but without Francine, the band doesn't fill clubs.

Francine's pregnancy puts her career on hold, but her loyal agent

(Lionel Stander) arranges some radio work. A record company executive offers a contract, convinced she'll become a major recording star. Jimmy reacts with boorish hostility. Francine gives birth to a son, divorces Jimmy, and soon has a hit record, "And the World Goes Round." She eventually becomes a Hollywood musical comedy star. When she returns to New York for a major concert, Jimmy comes backstage. It's clear they're still drawn to each other. Will they reunite?

The biggest problem with the movie, then and now, is Jimmy. In the painfully long sequence chronicling his meeting Francine, we're meant to find his brashness charming, unconventional, appealing. But as portrayed by De Niro, he's obnoxious, self-centered, someone to be avoided. Since Francine appears level-headed and likeable, the audience wonders what she sees in him. Throughout the tediousness of their stormy relationship, the viewer keeps asking when she's going to wake up.

Things improve with Francine's success. Minnelli is in fine voice, singing the era's stan-



dards smoothly and with restraint. Classics like "A New Kind of Love," "Once in a While," "My Lucky Star," "Just You, Just Me" are beautifully performed. She starts "The Man I Love" slowly, then builds to the big-belter finale, but it works. She delivers powerhouse renditions of the new songs, especially the title number. The extended sequence of a movie within the movie, called *Happy Endings*, is delightful, showing what the picture could have achieved.

The late Broadway star Larry Kert, who created the role of Tony in *West Side Story*, and starred in the original production of *Company*, brings a poignant, sexy charm in his musical scenes with Minnelli. The rest of the big, largely unknown cast does well.

next page ►

## Eating Out

◀ Arts cover

burn or Jean Arthur, who could both out-wisecrack and intimidate the hell out of their guys. Stiles—in the time-out while her gay roommate Mark (*Desperate Housewives*' gay gardener Ryan Carnes) pretties up for a date with the homo-virgin Caleb (Scott Lunsford)—decides to poke Caleb about where he squats on the Kinsey scale.

"Okay, so sue me, but I have to say it, if you've never tricked with a chick, are you sure you picked dick?"

"Well, I've never done it with a dude, and I'm, you know, gay."

"God! You're a virgin? A virgin homosexual. Let me touch you. What about Kyle?"

"Oh no, we never."

"Thank god. You just don't look right together."

Kyle (writer/singer Jim Verraros, popped out of the closet fresh off a stint as a popular contestant on *American Idol*) is another sharply etched, hilariously embittered sidekick from the Thelma Ritter school, with a detour through the Valerie Harper school and maybe even the Cloris Leachman school. Kyle plants the gay-for-a-date bug in Caleb, who's frustrated after a botched porn-dream trick with voluptuous Tiffini (Rebekah Kochan). Kyle, his world-weary sarcasm undercut by furtive glances at Caleb's gym-trained six pack, explains Faux Gay 101.

"Being gay is more than listening to good music and eating low-fat foods. There are certain things you have to do to convince the general public."

"We could stage a bashing."

"No, what you need to do is find the loudest queen on campus and smoke his pole."

### Gay uncle

*Eating Out*'s creator Q. Allan Brocka has filmmaking in his DNA, being a nephew of the celebrated out Philippine director Lino Brocka, who gained international acclaim for films critical of



(Left to right) Tiffini (Rebekah Kochan), Gwen (Emily Stiles), Marc (Ryan Carnes), Caleb (Scott Lunsford), Kyle (Jim Verraros), director Q. Allan Brocka (kneeling) of *Eating Out*.

the Marcos dictatorship, but who died in 1991, before young Allan (born in Guam, educated in Seattle) could meet him. "I was always told I had an uncle in the Philippines who was a filmmaker. He was prolific, respected and also queer. It's amazing to have such a role model in my family who I never got to meet."

Brocka says his filmmaking bug came by way of exposure to the Steven Spielberg-inspired film *Goonies*, and by a favorite toy. "I got a super-8 camera, and my first movies were little Lego movies of Lego cities getting destroyed by dinosaurs." Later, Brocka would create little plastic-brick people for his animation short series *Rick and Steve, the Happiest Gay Couple in the World*. As *IndieWire*'s Tim LaTorre wickedly noted, "Three words say it all: masturbating Lego penis."

*Eating Out*'s piece de resistance, the scene that makes it an antidote to a decade of self-castrating gay characters on *Will & Grace*, is the 15 minutes we get to sit in the head of a straight boy as he's simultaneously seduced by a woman on the phone and a guy in his crotch.

"The version of it that's in the film is actually the first draft of the

script. I never really rewrote it. There are all these movies where a gay guy has sex with a woman, and I just wanted it to be the other way around: I wanted a straight guy to have sex with a man, and it not be because he was a closet case or that he was really gay and just homophobic or afraid of his own sexuality. And I used this guy in my class as the model: what would have to happen for me to be able to get with him. I sort of put myself in his head. And after we read that scene in class, he came up and said, 'I could see myself doing that.' That was the ultimate compliment, and I knew I shouldn't change a word."

Brocka says the challenge of shooting a full-length story, even with lightweight digital cameras, in the desert in under 10 days, was met through the talent and spunk of an amazing core cast.

"Emily Stiles: her entire portion of the scene was done in one take. It's one wide shot that slowly pushes in to a close-up. That's all we could afford to do. The other two guys, we have a master and two close-ups of them. It just all had to be in their faces and their delivery. They're so beautiful and so compelling that they made

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## ARTS

## NY, NY

◀ previous page

The movie looks sensational. Scorsese and production designer Boris Levin recreate the '40s and early '50s beautifully. Cinematographer Laslo Kovacs photographs Minnelli extremely well. With the exception of one ghastly hat, Theodora van Runkle's costumes are knockouts, accentuating Minnelli's slim figure and gorgeous legs. Sydney Guilaroff's wigs recapture the era's hairstyles, which suit Minnelli very well.

Earl MacRauch and Marouk Martin may have imagined their script had the heartbreak of *A Star Is Born* ('54), Garland's great musical melodrama. But that film's male lead (James Mason), though flawed, convinced audiences that he loved Garland enough to sacrifice himself for her happiness. In contrast, despite the lavish attention Scorsese gives De Niro's

Jimmy, he remains unsympathetic, alarmingly close to Travis Brickley in *Taxi Driver* ('76). Only when he apologizes for his brutal remarks about the baby is he moving, but by then it's too late.

*New York, New York* was made by MGM, the studio where Minnelli's parents met, married and worked. Indeed, Guilaroff had often dressed Garland's hair. Although her second marriage, to Jack Haley, Jr. (son of the Tin Woodsman in *The Wizard of Oz*), was ending, Minnelli was romantically involved with Scorsese, a lover of Hollywood's Golden Age. She must have felt these were all good omens. The script suggests Francine will survive the pitfalls of stardom and have a happy life. In hindsight, the failure of *New York, New York* forecast trouble of all kinds for Liza Minnelli, which makes it sadder still. As for movie musicals, audiences had to wait until '02's *Chicago* to find magic again. ▼

## Eating Out

◀ previous page

the scene work."

As a huge *American Idol* fan, Brocka was eager to convince the now-out-of-the-closet, former *Idol* star Jim Verraros to play straight hunk Caleb's gay roommate Kyle.

Raised in a far-flung suburb of Chicago by deaf parents (a Greek-born father and American mother), Verraros says his was a road-rage, nightmare version of the American dream.

"Crystal Lake is very straight and non-accepting of homosexuals, that's for sure. I was gay-bashed every day in junior high, and I wasn't even out at the time. When you're a kid like that, all you want to do is just fit in, and apparently I didn't. I hadn't hit puberty as quick as the other guys in my class. I wasn't involved in sports, and that was threatening. Once high school came around, I found my niche, and everything clicked."

Verraros says having two deaf parents forced him to grow up quickly, becoming the family's interpreter from the age of six. "It kind of allowed me to be close and comfortable with adults," Verraros attributes this heightened maturity with helping him achieve success as a singer/actor, starting in junior high.

His coming out took place in stages: first, to himself at 18, after a

furtive kiss with another boy; then, to his parents, who were totally accepting; and finally, in a public way in the *Advocate* in early 2003, after finishing with *American Idol*.

"I don't think that I was prepared to be a spokesperson for homosexuality, but I welcomed the responsibility with open arms, and I had to deal with a lot of youth around the world e-mailing me and telling me how much they appreciated me coming out."

Verraros says he wasn't put off by the rumors circulating around *Idol* sensation Clay Aiken. "Well, other than the fact that he is, you know, pretty gay just by looking at him. To be honest, it didn't give me any trepidation. Me and Clay Aiken are two separate artists. I think it's so funny how the gay community is so interested in his sexuality and with giving him some attention when he hasn't given the gay community any attention. Clearly he's not ready, clearly it's an issue, clearly he's nervous by it, clearly he has something to hide, and that's unfortunate, because I think now is a really great time, and we need more openly gay individuals, especially in the entertainment industry."

Verraros, whose maturity, sincerity and deft comic timing inject erotic appeal in a supposedly geeky character, says his favorite scene involves sharing a hot kiss with Ryan Carnes' Mark. "Ryan was great. We didn't rehearse that kissing at all. He's an amazing kisser." *Opens Friday at the Castro.* ▼

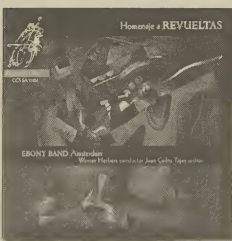
## World music

◀ page 40

help create music with a distinct national identity. In the 10 years following, he produced a large body of colorful compositions with a distinctly Mexican and revolutionary flavor.

In 1936, Revueltas became secretary-general of the League for Revolutionary Artists and Writers, and visited Spain to show his support for the anti-Fascist movement. Seeing his hopes for freedom seemingly defeated by the darkening political landscape, he returned to Mexico disillusioned. He continued to compose and drink excessively until he died of pneumonia at age 41.

Performed by the Ebony Band of Amsterdam, the disc begins with one of Revueltas' most famous compositions, "Sensemaya." Usually heard in its spectacular orchestral version, this short, savagely rhythmic piece about the ritualistic killing of a poisonous snake is offered in its original



form for 15 instruments.

Most striking is the final work on the disc, the three-movement *Hommage a Frederico Garcia Lorca*, a tribute to the great Spanish homosexual poet who was slain in 1936 by Fascist soldiers. The first movement, "Baile," starts mournfully, but quickly transitions into a bizarre carnival burlesque of Mexican peasant music. After the mournful "Duelo por Garcia Lorca," the concluding movement, "Son," represents a distinctly Mexican celebration around a gravesite. This is great music from a man whose voice must be heard. ▼

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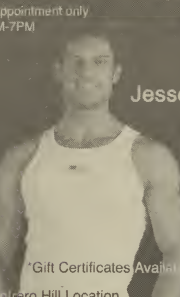
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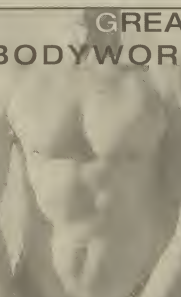
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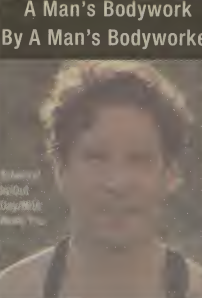
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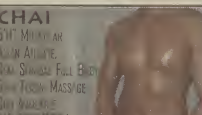


**A Man's Bodywork**  
By A Man's Bodyworker

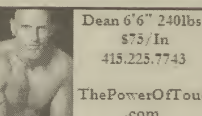


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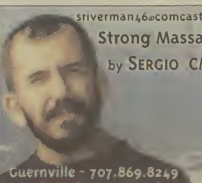
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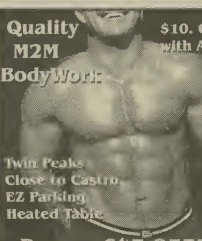
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10PM - 1AM  
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CONTESTANTS SHOULD ARRIVE BY 9:30PM

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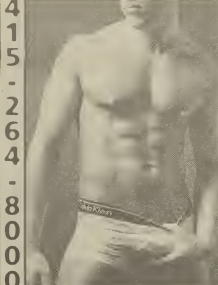
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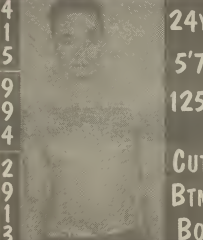
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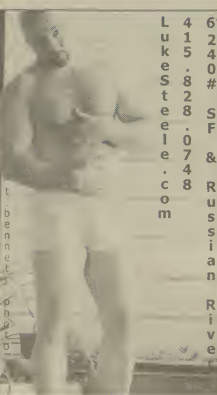
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My place, your place 6 Hrs!

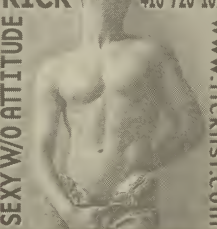
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Actual model pictured.



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165LBS

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**Older Cigar Or Pipe Smokers**  
LM 6', 165lbs. dk hr. I'm looking for a much older M who regularly smokes cigars or pipes & enjoys a lot of affection, deep kissing, & other oral pleasures. Not into gay lifestyle. ☎ 71497

**50s German Looking To Meet Men**  
Blonde German looking to meet guys between 50-60. Disease free, sense of humor, friendship wanted - I'm just a simple Joe. ☎ 71503

**SEEKING ADVENTURE**

**Can Old Dogs Learn New Tricks?**  
Masculine WM life-long pussy eater seeking over 65 senior to train me to be your on-call oral pleasure provider. ☎ 71508

**Kewl Blue Collar Top ISO Boy Pup**  
GWM 39 with an edge for sexual pleasures, and very good at it. ISO tall slim white boy that knows how to play hard. Think it's you? Reply! ☎ 71504

**Endowed Black Man, 50, 5'9", 180**  
Needs oral servicing daytimes M-F from a mature, oral expert, either clean shaven or mustache only. No age limit, all races welcome. Direct phone required. ☎ 71501

**Spank Your Butt**  
Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11" 175#, seeks well built bottom with nice ass for over the knee spankings, role playing and plowing your ass ☎ 71496

**Caucasian Bottom For Asian Top**  
Mature talented white bottom wants to pleasure Asian top w/my muscular tan line butt! ☎ 71498

**Pose For Male Nude Photos!!**  
Photographers in East Bay looking for in-shape male models for nude, artistic, erotic and sensual photos. We want to put you in pictures. Call and join the fun! ☎ 71494

**FETISHES**

**Oral Sex Coach For Your Ladies**  
They learn watching me deep-throat our meat/llick sweat off balls/eat ass/gulp piss; your moans cue action for them! ☎ 71507

**Married Straight Into Whipping**  
Do you have dungeon and desire to punish bad boys? I need a good whipping. I have whips for you to use on my bare back, ass, legs. ☎ 71505

**Masc 50 Role Play Showing Off**  
5'10" 170lbs into getting serviced by talented mouth from older in shape suit and tie ☎ 71500

**Bi - Threesome Ravish - 69 More**  
Me Mr. xx. Age 57 - ISO all bi - couples (21 - 45) for bi - threesome. 69 all day. French /greek +++ Dray - Queens too - +++ No Drugs. Only "bi" ☎ 71499

**Nude Wrestle**  
GWM, 5'8", 160 Lbs, seeking slim sized opponents for nude battle to pin or submission. Be clean and competitive. ☎ 71495



# BAR TALK

## PERSONALS ARE FREE!

**CATEGORY**

- Parting Glances ☐  
Seeking Relationship ☐  
Seeking Adventure ☐  
Lesbian ☐  
Fetishes ☐  
Couples ☐  
Others ☐

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

**MAIL FORM TO:** BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



## PEOPLE

## XXX WEB

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matchmaking agency and meet quality  
relationship minded men who want to  
meet you. Visit us online today.  
Free memberships to exceptional men  
ages 21-35.

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ADULT JOBS  
OFFEREDFALCON STUDIOS  
READY TO SHOW YOUR STUFF?

FALCON STUDIOS,  
The premiere gay adult video com-  
pany, is holding an open casting call  
on March 25, 2005, 3-6PM. Must  
be 18yo with proof of ID. For  
more info, call 321-6629.

E12

OLDER MEN  
WANTED

4 XXX videos and modeling. Only  
55+ men. Good pay call mark  
626-473-2765 or  
modelssf@older4me.com

E14

## FACTORY VIDEO

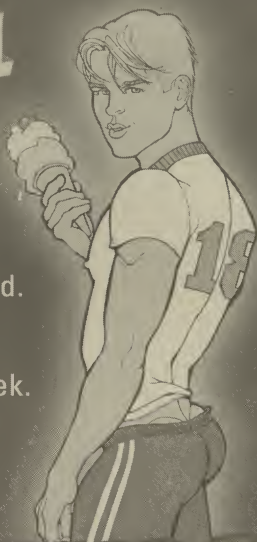
You - Hot, 18-35, in shape. Like sex  
& showing off + Making \$\$\$. Call now  
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Call us at 415-777-9070.  
www.factoryvideos.com

E11

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have photos  
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Available in  
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men  
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PERSONALS ORDER FORM

Indicate  
Type Style  
Here ▼

X-BOLD Stops Here ▼ BOLD Stops Here ▼ CAPS Stop Here ▼ Regular Stops Here ▼

## DEADLINE

NOON on MONDAY.  
Payment must accompany ad.  
No ads taken over the  
telephone. If you have a  
question, call 415.861.5019.  
Display advertising rates  
available upon request.

## RATES

First line, Regular 6.00  
All subsequent lines 4.00  
CAPS double price  
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X-BOLD triple price

## PAYMENT

- ☐ Cash  
☐ Personal Check  
☐ Money Order  
☐ Visa  
☐ MasterCard

Minimum \$10 charge  
on Visa and MasterCard.

## CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
3-Digit Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Issues \_\_\_\_\_ Classification \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL WITH  
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REPORTER  
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94103  
OR FAX TO:  
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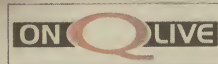
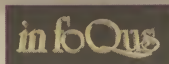
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